FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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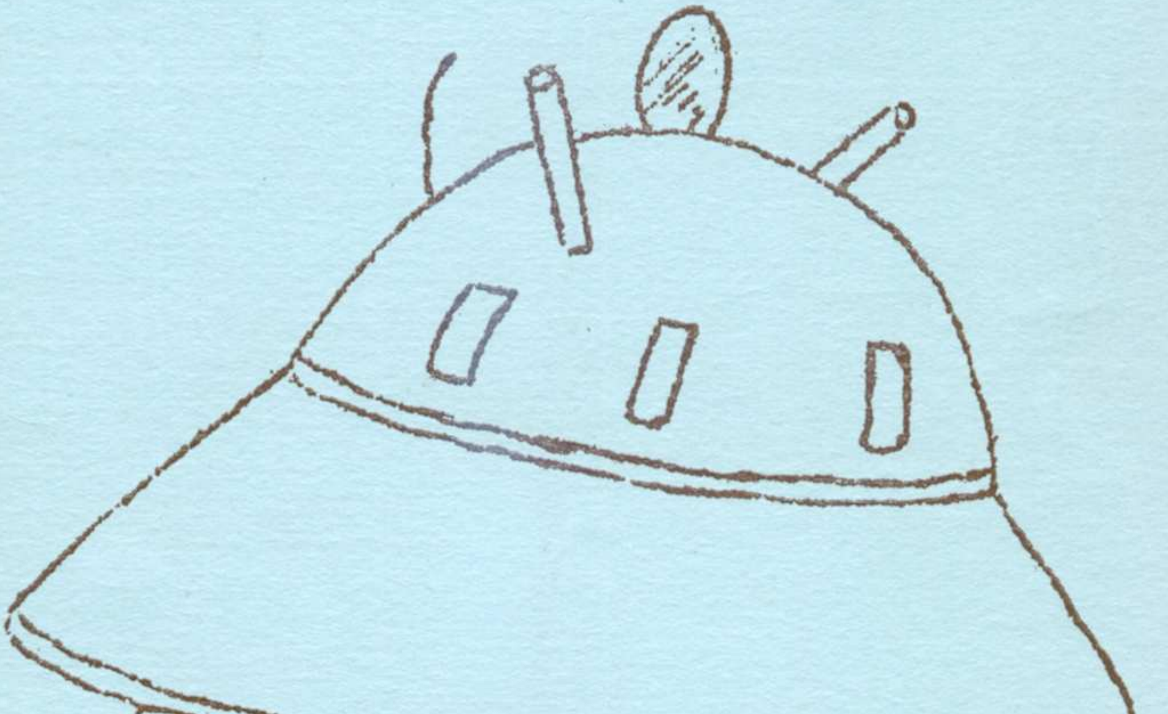

WAS THIS THE CHARLTON SAUCER

The bi-monthly
Journal of
SPACE

Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 10 No. 3 MAY-JUNE 1964

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1964
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Trained Minds

WITH the article printed in this issue, Jacques Vallée completes his scientific investigation into the reports of landed occupants of unidentified flying objects in several parts of the world on various dates, particularly in France in the autumn of 1954. Excluded altogether from his list are references to the claims of the evangelist contactees. No pilots with long hair, peach-coloured complexions, buttonless ski-suits and a desire to save the world are included. These people and their familiars come under the heading of "hoax, fraud and hallucination."

Although this is not the main point we would like to make, it is worth the digression to query the reason for the exclusion. It is true that while the Quarouble incident referred to by Jacques Vallée is one of the most circumstantial of all the landing accounts, there are many others invited to his Royal Enclosure which would seem to be no better authenticated than those which he has excluded. Any impartial critic must notice that dwarfs, giants and other oddities are "in," but "Venusians" are "out." Vallée then proceeds to make the point that those who report "dwarfs" tell a more consistent story than the other types. It would therefore seem that consistency has a measure of scientific approval, but this is not allowed as a virtue when the long line of contactees from Adamski to Siragusa come to beg for admittance. Certainly these stories are very similar and have much more in common than exists between any of the groups in Vallée's Type 1 list. But perhaps the common denominator is not important. If it is not, we wonder why. Does it matter only when it concerns the oddities and never where human beings are alleged to have landed?

However, it is not solely the qualifications for joining Vallée's exclusive club that concern us most. It is the reference to the trained mind that make us curious. Before this exceptional instrument can be defined in precise terms, it might be as well to ask two questions. Trained by whom? is one. Trained in what? is the other.

In the nineteenth century, untrained minds kept reporting that stones had fallen from the sky. The stones, presumably, were still lying on the ground to add some support to these otherwise unlikely stories. The trained minds, however, pointed out that there were no stones in the sky so how could they have fallen from it? The logic was absolute: it was only the premise that was at fault.

The point we think Vallée is making is that so far no trained mind claims to have seen a landed saucer and its occupants emerge from the contraption. Perhaps this is true. Trained minds are very much rarer than the other sort and we have no doubt that statistics can be found to prove this assertion. Vallée has discovered that nocturnal visits are commoner than others and untrained minds, it must be remembered, follow the more menial tasks and often work by night while the well trained mind is enjoying a good sleep. The rare astronomer who may be awake is gazing at a distant star and not at a railway line in France.

Marius Dewilde, who seems to have been believed by *all* the saucer students, did not possess a trained mind. But what sort of training does one need to see a circular object squatting on the permanent way? What special study must one follow to see a dwarf in a diving suit? Was the witness emotional? Well, Marius was very shocked as well he might be, but he stuck to his story and corroborative evidence was forthcoming. As far as we know he offered no explanation of what he saw. He made no claim to have seen the hand of God in the sky or an angel on the ground (two manifestations which the scientific approach rules out completely, though for reasons that are obscure). Marius, however, did have one inestimable advantage over the trained mind. He had seen what he had seen while the trained mind was elsewhere and asleep.

But let us suppose that the trained mind had been awakened from his slumber. What would have happened? Much would have depended upon the type of trained mind. Had Dr. Menzel's alarm gone off he would probably have declared that an under-sized deep-sea diver had emerged from a temperature inversion. Jacques Vallée, on the other hand, would have made a notch in a French straight line. An expert from the Air Ministry or its French equivalent would have declared that it was a weather balloon released by either Great Britain or Germany, depending on the direction of the wind. Now let us suppose that some sleepy head with a trained mind had arrived on the scene, one that had never harboured any preconceived notions about flying saucers, Martians and the like. Utterly astounded, he would in all probability have decided to keep his mouth tightly shut. Trained minds, it should be noted, do not as a rule like to be laughed at by their inferiors. It may not just be statistics that keeps the trained minds out of Vallée's list: it could also be fear of ridicule.

If, for a moment, we return to our meteors, we learn that when they became fashionable, scientists began to study them. They listed them and they discovered laws which these objects seemed to obey. The world had a new word which was accepted not only as a new word but also as an explanation of the hitherto impossible. Anything seen in the sky which didn't fit became a meteor, regardless of its behaviour. It might proceed on a zig-zag course, it could suddenly reverse direction, remain stationary and start off again — all this mattered not. It must be a meteor. What else could it have been? It is only now that we realise that it might have been a flying saucer — or a complete mystery. The latter explanation, however, is not one that appeals to the mind that has been thoroughly trained.

Poor, simple Marius Dewilde! His education was neglected and his mind undisciplined. It is no use asking him to explain one of the mysteries of the universe. Had he indeed met men from Mars? He will probably never know and nobody would think of asking him. His only claim to recognition is that he has become a statistic in a scientific survey and even then he must be regarded with some suspicion. Can he be relied on? Would it not be better if some psychiatrist gave him a going over? We think, however, that Marius was superior as a witness to many who might have been called to the scene. He had an untrained mind and that is the main reason why we believe him implicitly.

"FARCE" IN RAF

Labour M.P. Mr. George Wigg, complaining of farcical security classifications in the RAF, listed the following documents stamped "restricted":

An announcement of an RAF church service;
An advertisement of a vacancy for a superintendent of typists;
A memorandum advertising a vacancy for a welfare officer at the Treasury;
A notice of a vacancy in Hong Kong for a Civil Servant.

(See London "Daily Mirror," March 9.)

It is small wonder that a controversial subject like UFOs is still shrouded in mystery.

ENTITIES ASSOCIATED WITH TYPE 1 SIGHTINGS

PART TWO

THE SCIENTIFIC INTERPETATION

by Jacques Vallée

IN the first part of this article, published recently in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (January-February, 1964) we have taken into consideration a certain number of popular accounts of "landings" and we have tried to present a clear statistical picture of the "entities" described in these reports.

In order to make this description, we had to refrain from judging the reports, and from discussing the reliability of the accounts, except in a few extreme cases where obvious hoaxes and misinterpretations of the evangelist type were involved. Having now established such a general description, we can review the statistical characters we have found and discuss them in terms of scientific interest.

1.—Description of " giants " and " men "

We have already noted, in the first part of our article, the high probability that the descriptions of "giants" were misinterpretations due to psychological causes, pure imagination or effects of perspective. The descriptions of "men" were more reliable.

It has been shown that fifty-two "men" had been mentioned in nineteen cases of alleged "landings." We will obviously be inclined to evaluate these cases in the light of the most detailed and well-known among them, i.e. the eight French cases. Their analysis is very unrewarding. The more one tries to go into the details of the facts, the more contradiction one finds in the descriptions.

First of all, we should exclude the Carcassonne case and the Chemin-Long case, on which we have at present very little information. In the Guyancourt case, the examination of the facts shows that the reliability of the witness is poor. In Herblay there was only one witness, a twelve-year-old boy. In Diges, the case has already been the subject of a considerable amount of discussion. Nobody disputes the fact that the witnesses observed the landing of an object. But this object could have been a Bell 47 Helicopter. Of course, it is very difficult to undertake a new investigation now: these cases certainly show the necessity of a local official organisation (such as the American A.T.I.C.) to check the facts as soon as they are reported and to evaluate precisely the reliability of the witnesses and the conditions at the time of the observation.

As far as the French cases are concerned, we are left with only three sightings: La-Roche-en-Breuil, Bouzais and Chaleix: they give very little information on which a serious investigation could be based. No official file has been established; and the accounts published in the newspapers do not provide any evidence tending to indicate that these observations are other than misinterpretations or hoaxes. They certainly do not provide any evidence of the extraterrestrial origin of the phenomena.

2.—Description of " dwarfs "

The problem of the descriptions of "dwarfs" is different. When the American astronomer C. Sagan evaluated the mathematical probability of visitation of the Earth by extraterrestrial civilisations, he found that such a visitation could be expected once every 1,000 years: could our accounts of "landings," and the descriptions of "little men," be interpreted in the light of these calculations? Does any proof exist of the reality of the "entities" so described? From the data

we have at the present time, the answer is negative.

If we first consider the "Erchin entity," we find that the best description was made by Starovski: unfortunately, the witness was alone, and his reliability can be challenged. The Loctudy case is known only indirectly. More generally, we find similar reasons to eliminate all other descriptions as being due to pure imagination. We are left with only one type of "dwarfs": those in a "diver's suit." Can imagination account for them?

A typical case is that of Quarouble. For many students interested in the phenomenon who were in France when the "Quarouble phychosis" developed, there is little doubt that imagination alone is not the cause of the rumour. Marius Dewilde had "seen something." Whether he really saw a craft from outer space and two "pilots," or some classical phenomenon seen under unusual circumstances, is another question. In order to evaluate such an account on a concrete basis one would need a complete psychological description of the witness. This experiment, to the best of our knowledge, has never been done.

3.—Science and the Fantastic

In the first part of our article, we carefully noted all features, devices and characters associated with the apparitions. We have found a certain number of "space suits," luminous glows, flashing lights and "balls of violet fire." We have found "luminous men" and small people "grunting like pigs." The fact that these descriptions come from the layman, and not from trained science-fiction enthusiasts, is interesting in itself to the psychologist, and we followed the psychological approach in this preliminary description. (Obviously, no physicist will discuss these aspects of the descriptions unless he is given material elements on which to base an investigation, such as physical evidence or photographs.)

There exists one theory which can explain all descriptions of "landings": in this theory it will be said that the witnesses either have misidentified classical phenomena, or have perpetrated hoaxes. This has already been shown to be true in many cases of "Venusians" and it is obviously a convenient explanation in many cases included in our present survey.

However, we feel that a complete rejection of all sightings on this basis would be dangerous. We have no indication that the descriptions are related to "extraterrestrial" phenomena. But we have no proof, on the other hand, that they are *not* related to an interesting natural phenomenon of some sort: many accounts of "landings" or objects close to the ground have been shown to relate to ball lightning and electrical effects; in such cases the "entities" could have been imagined by emotional persons.

During the Middle Ages, comets were described in a very fantastic manner. Rains of blood were said to accompany them, and Flammarion quotes a description of a comet in which people saw the hand of God, holding a sword, and surrounded by numerous heads of angels. Behind these "fantastic" popular descriptions was a scientific fact. Rejecting them because of their highly imaginative details would have resulted in a loss of information on the (now) ordinary natural phenomenon which was the origin of the rumour. In our opinion, UFO accounts present a similar situation to the modern scientist: angels armed with swords have been replaced by spacemen in diving suits armed with electronic guns.

4.—Conclusion

We will resume the general survey of the accounts of landings with "pilots" by the following statements:

1/In this survey of 80 sightings of "pilots" (where 153 "entities" have been described) we have not discovered any evidence of the extraterrestrial origin of these "entities."

2/We have found serious indications of the "nocturnal" character of the apparitions (Part I, figure 1, of my article in the January-February, 1964, issue).

3/We have estimated the descriptions of "giants" as extremely unreliable.

4/We have been unable to show that the descriptions of "men" were other than misinterpretations of ordinary landings of, say, helicopters due to psychological causes.

5/In our investigation of descriptions of "dwarfs" we have found more agreement between the witnesses, but a very small amount of data which could be used in a more elaborate theory of the origin of these "entities," if their existence is accepted. In our opinion, *the witness himself* is the most interesting element in these cases and his psychological character should be investigated before any new hypothesis is put forward.

6/We admit that the attribution of all the cases to hoax and hallucination is a logical explanation. Sightings prior to 1954 seem especially unreliable.

7/However, we wish to point out that the "fantastic" character of a popular description cannot be taken as a criterion for the rejection, by the scientist, of that description. A

fantastic interpretation is what can be expected from unprepared and untrained witnesses, especially when under the conditions of the 1954 "psychosis," even if the cause of the phenomenon is a purely natural effect of some sort.

8/It is our opinion, therefore, that nothing in these descriptions can be retained by the investigator as a "proof" or even as a serious indication in favour of the reality and extra-terrestrial origin of these "entities" at the present time. But that the mere rejection of the cases would result in a loss of information on one of the most puzzling phenomena of our century.

FÁTIMA

THE THREE ALTERNATIVES

by Gilbert S. Inglefield

FATIMA is inescapable. There is no possible doubt that something occurred there; it is by far the best authenticated "miracle" of the twentieth, or for that matter, of any other century, and it was seen by at least 70,000 witnesses. You may find photographs in Gilbert Renault's *Fatima, espérance du monde* of their perplexity as spectators watch the phenomenon. I believe there exists a faded picture of the "thing" itself. There are articles in contemporary Portuguese newspapers and there are people alive to-day who were there. Lucia herself, now in a Spanish Convent, is still with us. The Fátima incident and the bomb on Hiroshima are, I venture to think, the most remarkable — perhaps the most significant — episodes of our generation. If you wish to read the facts there are many books in English, French and Portuguese on the subject, but nearly all have a religious bias. Yet how odd it is that so few people have even heard of Fátima!

I have used, for want of a better one, the word "miracle" which has been defined in the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* as a "marvellous event due to some supernatural agency." The goings-on at Fátima on October 13, 1917, could not possibly have been a natural or even a meteorological phenomenon. The sun does not dance or detach itself from the sky. Neither could it have been a case of mass hallucination for the crowd was a heterogeneous combination of the pious and atheists, the curious and the inquisitive. It was therefore either some kind of UFO or a "miracle" of the same calibre as the feeding of the five thousand, the crashing walls of Jericho, the raising of Lazarus or the changing of water into wine, explainable by the agency of Providence — an agency in which I am prepared, as a Christian, to believe (with possibly one or two minor reservations). But if it was a miracle of this order, why has not the Vatican, specialists surely in this line of business, freely admitted it as such? From their point of view Fátima offered enormous proselytising possibilities.

A strange effluvia

If the "dancing sun" was a UFO, then the evidence as presented and analysed in Paul Thomas' *Les Extraterrestres* (p.p. 89-91) is indeed startling. The author has compared in parallel paragraphs the description of the "dancing sun," taken from the most reliable account, with descriptions of sightings noted by M. Michel, Donald Keyhoe and other, mostly American, sources; even to the incidence of a fall-out of that strange transient effluvia which astonished the schoolmaster at Oloron but which the pious at Fátima thought to be snow flakes or white flowers. Fátima itself lies within 50 miles or so of the "Bavic" line and that is certainly worth remembering.

The Fátima story has two chapters; the first concerns the personal visitations and colloquies of which the three children were the principal witnesses, and the second recounts the public viewing of the "dancing sun" observed — without any doubt — by a huge crowd constituting perhaps the largest audience so far recorded as witnessing a supernatural phenomonen, if such it

was. Their evidence cannot be called in question.

What of the children? The story of visions, visits, and visitations is a long one throughout the history of any religion, particularly of Christianity. Such things usually happen to those of particular piety, like St. Paul or St. Teresa, or to simple unsophisticated children, as to the young Samuel or to Bernadette at Lourdes. They are not, so far as I know, manifested to salesmen, stockbrokers or journalists. My Protestant mind accepts this without much heart-searching, and I am prepared to believe the stories of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco — even if the messages may have been rather childish. But such messages about rosaries and chaplets and all the rest, though a little tiresome, would be comprehensible to simple children educated by a simple and possibly sentimental parish priest. It would be on their level.

A curious incident

Then how does one tie up chapter two with chapter one? Here's the rub. Coincidence is impossible. The chance that a wandering flying saucer, a bit off its bearings on the "Bavic" line, could, at exactly the right moment of time, have put on a show is too far fetched. The explanation must be that a liaison existed between the visions and the final "sign." Was this liaison involved with the most vital of our religions — Christianity? Was the "sign" of the "dancing sun" a confirmation of the visions and their messages? Or was it — and this is a disagreeable thought — a gesture of mocking?

It is worth noting that there is a curious follow-up — if one may so describe it — in an incident reported by Renault and commented on by Paul Thomas. It appears that Pope Pius XII in 1950 confided to Cardinal Tedeschini (who put out the story) that he was much moved by a vision that he experienced in the gardens of the Vatican during the octave of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. He saw an opaque disc which covered the sun and which seemed to adjust its movements to keep the sun masked for a short period, so that for so long as he was on the axis of vision a kind of eclipse was evident and could only be visible to him. The behaviour of the disc was not unlike that of the disc at Fátima which was noticed at the time to come from the sun. This is an interesting parallel.

Lucia has in the course of time revealed the messages that she received from her visions. These concerned the necessity for prayer among the faithful to turn from our sinful ways and a curious reference to the dangers of Russian political theories to be thwarted by the conversion of that country to Christianity — not yet, alas, fulfilled. And there is another message that was to be revealed in 1960. So far as I know, this last message, written down and sealed in an envelope and entrusted to the late Bishop Correia da Silva, has not been disclosed. It has been hinted — but on what authority is not clear, and I have a suspicion that it may be just wishful thinking — that this last message deals with the acceptance of the theory of life on and communication with other planets.

A Challenge

In the meanwhile, where do we go from here about the Fátima enigma? You must accept one of three solutions and there is no escape. You must believe that the dancing sun was some phenomenon which science can explain, and in that case may I, with respect, ask the Editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW to throw down the gauntlet at the door of Dr. Menzel. Or you can say that it was a pure miracle like the miraculous draught of fishes and leave it at that. Or that it was due to a UFO intervention either on its own (which makes the children's visions a more tricky problem) or with the liaison of Christian agency. In which case let the editor knock at the gates at the Vatican, and when he does so let him enquire about Lucia's last message. But I am prepared to lay a considerable bet that he gets no response from either.

MILLIONS OF INHABITED PLANETS

By Bruno Friedman

WE are grateful to our reader, Miss M. G. Duck, for having drawn our attention to the following article which is reproduced through the courtesy of "Unesco Features." It appeared in their issue dated January 10, 1964—No. 430.

It is, perhaps, a characteristic of our egocentricity that we should concern ourselves so largely with sending messages to outer space while refusing to consider that others may have been sending them to us—and meeting with no response. It is significant that whenever apparently intelligent messages are received, experts like those at Jodrell Bank immediately dismiss them as hoaxes. In this connection our readers are referred to the article "Message from Space?" to be found elsewhere in this issue.

ELSEWHERE in the universe, there may exist intelligent races of life, but how to find them? . . . how to communicate with them? Man's search for fellow life in the universe has already begun.

Look at the stars, those specks of light glimmering in the night sky. On planets revolving around many of those specks other eyes, intelligent eyes, are probably noting our own speck, the sun. Modern science says "probably," where not many years ago, science with equal vigour said "improbable."

Based on this "probably," an effort to make contact with other life in space, called Project Ozma, was made in 1960. For 150 listening hours an immense radio telescope (which is essentially a radio receiver tuned to pick up radio signals generated in space) of the U.S. National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia, listened for radio signals which might indicate transmission by sentient beings.

The search was completely inconclusive. Despite the very strong likelihood that there is intelligent life in the universe, there was actually very slight hope of success, since the "ear" used in Project Ozma — the radio telescope in West Virginia — is too small to reach out very far in space. Yet, just the very effort gives rise to many questions.

— What makes scientists so sure today that there is intelligent life in space?
— Where do we locate such living beings?
— Are they more intelligent, just as, or less intelligent than we are?
— How can we communicate with them, considering that they are likely to be completely different from us, to have a completely different kind of language, and even completely different patterns of thought?

Let us pursue the answers to those questions.

Not many years ago the most commonly accepted hypothesis for the origin of the solar system stated that some time in aeons past a vagrant star passed just close enough to our sun for its gravitational attraction to tear out a portion of the sun's mass. The flung-out mass of flaming gases, however, held near the sun by its own gravitational attraction, revolved around it, and eventually coagulated and hardened into lumps which are the planets we now know.

So unusual is such an event that it was computed that it had occurred possibly a few hundred times for all the hundred thousand million stars of our galaxy, the Milky Way. Moreover, only from one to ten of the planets so created would have the conditions necessary for the evolution of

life. This hypothesis had many flaws.

In recent years, the German, Weizäcker, proposed his dust-cloud hypothesis. This postulated that the individual planets were formed thousands of millions of years ago by the agglomeration of dust particles and gases swirling in an immense cloud around the sun. This mechanism is simple and undramatic and, apart from explaining the known facts about our Solar System quite well, is such that planet formation becomes a relatively commonplace occurrence.

While only a small percentage of the planets formed would have the right conditions (temperature, atmosphere, exposure to radiation) to support life, the immense number of stars in the universe means there must be a great many habitable planets.

Where are these other races?

The modern theory of how life evolved on earth out of inanimate matter, first presented by the Russian, Oparin, has led many scientists to the conclusion that wherever conditions are suitable for the formation of life, life will eventually develop. As a result, it is now estimated that there must be millions of planets in the Milky Way which do support life.

Is it intelligent life? By the laws of chance, it may be assumed that some of it is less intelligent than life on earth and some of it far more intelligent. However, since our space communications technology as yet is barely in its infancy, any race that we can contact must have a technology at least as advanced as ours and probably far more so.

Where are these other races? We do not know, for even our best optical telescopes are not powerful enough to show us the existence of planets around the very nearest stars.

Within a distance of 17 light-years of us there are 40 other stars. Of these, only two are of such a type that they might have planets which could support life. These two are Epsilon Eridani and Tau Ceti, both about 11 light-years away, and approximately at the extreme limit of the range of our best current radio-telescopes.*

The inconclusive Project Ozma search, carried out by Dr. Frank Drake at the suggestion of Professors Cocconi and Morrison of Cornell University, was directed at these two stars. But, since only a very small *proportion* of all stars have life-supporting planets, the chances of finding any indications of life were very small.

If, however, our receiving equipment could pick up signals emanating from planets within a radius of one thousand light-years, there would be a 50% chance of finding evidence of intelligent life. In this radius there are perhaps hundreds of thousands of stars with habitable planets.

But before we could respond to any such signals and receive a return reply, a period ranging from decades to hundreds of years would elapse, despite the fact that radio waves travel at the speed of light — 300,000 km. (186,000 miles) per second.

Any radio signal that we would send out or receive would be composed of a series of pulses which would make up a message. And this

* Soviet scientists are said to have developed a method enabling them to beam radio signals into space to a distance of 30 light-years.

Sighting reports . . .

From England, South Wales, Portugal

and Australia

. . . in this issue

message would have to be repeated continuously, over and over again, for years on end.

But, having no common language, how do two perhaps fantastically different races communicate by means of pulses? An interesting answer follows from an experiment done by Dr. Drake. He gave a message which was composed of a series of ones and zeros to persons who had attended a conference on radio astronomy at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. He gave no clues as to how to decipher the message. Nevertheless, the majority of those to whom it was submitted deciphered it quite quickly.

How it could be done

It works something like this. Suppose you receive a strip marked with a series of ones (corresponding to pulses) and zeros (corresponding to intervals), a total of 187 of them.

You are told this is a message.

You would first note that 187 is the product of the multiplication of two prime numbers, 11 × 17. You would then surmise that there was some reason for choosing these two prime numbers (numbers that cannot be divided by any other number except one). You might next make up a rectangular grid, like that of a crossword puzzle, having 11 rows by 17 columns, or vice versa, for a total of 187 squares.

Starting at the upper left-hand corner and working across, and so proceeding successively across all the rows, you would black in only those squares which correspond to a "one" in the message; wherever there was a zero you would leave the corresponding square blank. Using a grid having 11 horizontal rows and 17 vertical columns, you would find no noticeable order. But if you tried the other arrangement, having 17 rows and 11 columns, you would find that a crude picture of a man appeared, formed by the blacked-in squares. This was the nature of the successful experiment conducted by Dr. Drake. (See sketch.)

Any intelligent beings receiving a series of pulses — continually repeated, proving that they were not the random radio noise always present in space — would make a similar approach to deciphering the message. With a message composed of, say, 3127 pulses and no-pulses (3127 being the product of the two prime numbers, 53 and 59) a great deal of information could be conveyed.

Apart from pictures, other message schemes using pulses have been developed, based on mathematics, which is a kind of universal language.

Consider the day when our radio telescopes may pick up a signal which we identify as having originated on the planet of a star 50 light-years away — thousands of years away for any spacecraft. We would beam a message back to that planet, but it would be one hundred years before we would receive a reply. During that hundred years, however, we would send forth messages continuously. These messages would gradually

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01110100011011101100100
11100100101101101011011
011011000110110000001101
100000010001000000100010
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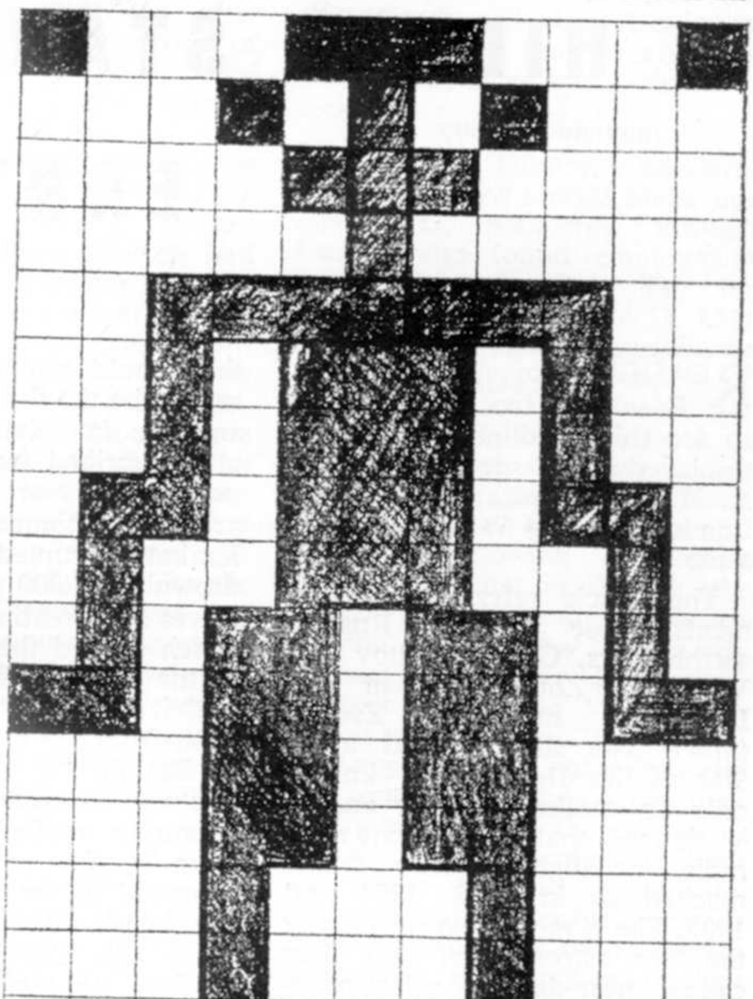


teach the beings on the other planet one of our earth languages, perhaps a synthetic language based on mathematics, with a simplified and logical grammar and vocabulary. Then, over the course of the years, we could tell them a great deal about ourselves.

Finally, as our technology evolves, we might be sending television pictures of ourselves and our civilisation.

And when we received the reply from the planet, we would find them doing exactly the same thing.

An example of how we might communicate with other beings in space. Message at left, composed of 187 pulses (ones) and intervals (zeros) will, at the receiving end, be converted into a picture by filling in an 11 × 17 grid, as at right. One starts at upper left corner and, taking the squares consecutively, blacks in the corresponding square for each pulse and leaves it untouched for each interval. Even as crude a picture as this conveys the fact that we are erect, frontally-symmetrical, four-limbed bipeds, with two eyes in a case atop our trunks, together with some notions of our jointure and proportions.

HIDDEN STAR SIGNALLING EARTH?

READERS of the London *Evening News* were startled to see this headline prominently displayed in its issue of March 20. A similar account appeared in the London *Evening Standard* of the same date.

The article referred to statements made by two Russian astronomers, Genrikh Altov and Valentina Zhuravelva, in the Leningrad magazine *Zvezda* (*Star*). The star referred to is Star of the 61st Cygnus—known only to mathematicians—and it is claimed that it sent powerful radio or light signals which reached us in 1882, 1894 and 1908. The rays were so strong, say the two astronomers, that they caused near-disaster after penetrating our atmosphere.

In 1882, *Zvezda* states that a Greenwich astronomer named Monder and other scientists noted a greenish luminescent disc which they could not explain. This is said to be the first signal received, and the inhabitants of this star are described as the " signal " people. A year afterwards, the article continues, the volcano Krakatoa erupted near Indonesia drowning 35,000 people with tidal waves and creating a dust blanket which girdled the earth. The star in the Constellation of the Swan that it took eleven years for the flash from the explosion to reach it. But the "signal people " took this as a message from Earth and promptly replied. Eleven years later another greenish disc was observed by astronomers, exactly the time it would take to reach us from this distant star. Having received no reply to this second message, the " signal people " sent a really powerful reminder of their presence. The result was the famous Tungus crater in Siberia where a large area was devastated. The Russian astronomers now say that this was caused by a stream of laser-type light. They advised the formation of an international group to study the possibilities.

A spokesman at Jodrell Bank, according to the *Evening News*, said: " This claim needs more investigation, especially on the time lag betwen the signals aspect."

It is extraordinary how near to the truth we seem to be getting. If greenish discs seen in 1882 and 1894 are now deemed worthy of investigation, what is wrong with the other manifestations that are occurring almost daily over many parts of the globe? The statement from Jodrell Bank is guarded, but the spokesman must surely have allowed himself a thought about the flying saucers of today. Why can nobody in authority bring the matter into the open?

SPACEMEN IN THE MIDDLE AGES

By W.R. DRAKE

WE tend to believe that until 1453, when the capture of Constantinople by the Turks expelled the Greek scholars westwards to usher in the glorious Renaissance, Europe lived in a vacuum, where nothing happened; we are astonished to learn that in fact this period was fermented by an intellectual unrest comparable with our own unsettled century. A single spiritual dynamism drove Peter the Hermit to set in motion two centuries of Crusades for the Holy Sepulchre, a quixotic enterprise, which inspired and taxed men more than our attempt to land on the moon. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries feudal society was breaking down, monastic orders were founded, masons built cathedrals incorporating in the stonework arcane wisdom like those builders of the Pyramids, alchemists in their quest for the Philosopher's Stone transmuting metals to gold appear to have stumbled on some of the secrets of our own nuclear physics, famous universities were founded, the troubadours were distilling love into life and religion. The Church waged desperate conflict for survival against heresy, witchcraft and its own depravities

Cosmology still followed Ptolemy's system of epicycles and concentric spheres, poetically exemplified in Dante's *Divine Comedy,* wherein the Poet describes the Moon peopled by Spirits of inconstancy, Mercury, ambition, Venus, earthly love, the Sun, prudence, Mars, fortitude, Jupiter, justice, Saturn, temperance, the stars, souls, and the celestial vault with Angels, beyond which transcending space and time exists the Heaven of Light and Love, wherein the Spirit of God Himself abides.

This medieval conception of the universe amuses our scientific minds until suddenly we are struck by its affinity with the teachings alleged by our modern Spacemen, and we wonder. We are surprised to learn that at this time Siger of Brabant taught the periodically recurring cycle of events, everything happening over and over again, universe after universe, that ancient theory of Eternal Recurrence, propounded lately by Gurdjieff and Ouspensky. Astrology had persisted since the Roman Empire, the Arabs brought back to Europe the teachings of the Greeks; for centuries the Christian Church had accepted Plato's assertion that the visible world was only an imperfect copy of the transcendent universe. In the 13th century this became superseded by the Aristotelian doctrine that the universe around us is real and should be studied. Such a vital conception stimulated thinkers like Albertus Magnus, Robert Grossteste and Roger Bacon to defy the Church and to lay the foundations for an empirical natural science; fanciful astrology thus developed into practical astronomy, which swung to arid materialism and until our own last thrilling decade depopulated the universe to a sterile waste confining life to a tiny Earth.

Zealous recorders

Troubadours from gay Provence sang Chansons de Geste, of courtly Knights and Ladies fair; Chaucer told of the Canterbury Pilgrims; later Sir Thomas Malory resurrected King Arthur, Merlin and the Round Table; all revealing a magical world, where reality mingled with phantasy in glorious romance. Actual history was left to wandering scholars like Gervase of Tilbury, Matthew of Paris, William of Newbury, Giraldus Cambrensis, and Walter Map, who chronicled not only the turbulent strife between Emperor and Pope but also recorded phenomena in the heavens with a zeal worthy of classical Julius Obsequens and our inimitable Charles Fort; research into these mediaeval chronicles startlingly illumines the revelations of our own flying saucer students.

A curious incident

Gervase of Tilbury, a scholarly adventurer, saw service under our Henry II, wandered through Europe and found employment under Emperor Otto IV, for whose delection about A.D. 1211 he wrote his *Otia Imperialia* or *Imperial Trifles,* an assembly of marvels, folklore and table-talk of the age. Today this book is extremely rare, no copy is believed to exist in England. There are only two or three in Europe. For the following translation, possibly the first in English, the present writer had to borrow the volume from the University Library at Hanover. In Book I, Chapter XIII, " De Mari," Gervase is writing about " The Sea "; time and place are not specifically mentioned but the subsequent anecdote alleging the teleportation of a knife across the Irish Sea, infers that the incident the chronicler now describes occurred at the beginning of the thirteenth century at Bristol, " an opulent city filled with most wealthy citizens." In his curious mediaeval Latin Gervase narrates as follows:

" There are some, who say that the land is in the centre, in the middle of the circumference, with

each part equally distant at the extremities, surrounded by sea and encompassed according to the commandments of the Third Day: "He gathered together the waters under the heavens unto one place and there appeared dry land.''

"There befell in our own times a demonstration from the seas above us, a new revelation appearing from aloft, quite wonderful. It was truly on the observance of a feast day in Greater Britain, after the people had heard solemn Mass in the church, the crowd were dispersing here and there, at that particular time it was misty because of many clouds and somewhat obscure. Then appeared the anchor of a ship, which after circling around seven times became fastened below a mound of stones with the rope stretched out hanging in the air. The people broke into clamour, and as some of them were talking of this, they saw the rope move as though someone was striving to free the anchor. However, despite much effort spent, it did not give way, then a voice was heard in the dense air like the shout of sailors to recall the anchor, which had been thrown and stretched out. With no delay, deceived by the promise of the task, they sent one of their own sailors, who climbed down in the way our seamen do by clinging to the anchor rope and descending changing hand over hand. And when he had already released the anchor, he was seized by the bystanders and pushed about from hand to hand as though he were shipwrecked at sea. Suffocated by the mist of our moist atmosphere he expired. But then the sailors above took counsel on their shipwrecked comrade, after the space of one hour, they cut off the anchor rope and leaving the anchor sailed away. In memory of this happening, after careful consideration, from the anchor was wrought that iron grille for the doors of the basilica, which stand open for the public to look at."

Gervase of Tilbury does not express astonishment at these sailors from the skies, he relates the incident in terse journalistic style as though reporting an actual occurrence resisting the temptation to embellish his story with phantasy or to guess details obscured by the mist. He states that the sailor, rather the Spaceman, was of human proportions, spoke an articulate language, behaved with skill but succumbed to our Earth's dense atmosphere; the rope and metal anchor were apparently similar to those in use on Earth. The implied competence of the Spacemen may not be very impressive, but this somewhat endears them to us and perhaps supports the stories told by those who allege contact with them today that the Spacepeople are basically much like ourselves.

More anecdotes

This remarkable incident recalls the account of Agobard, Archbishop of Lyons, who wrote in *De Grandine et Tonitrua* how in 840 A.D. he found the mob in Lyons lynching three men and a woman accused of landing from a cloudship from the aerial region of Magonia. The great German philologist, Jacob Grimm, about 1820 described a ship from the clouds, and Montanus, an eighteenth century writer on German folklore, told of wizards flying in the clouds, who were shot down. The belief in Beings from the skies who surveyed our Earth persisted in human consciousness throughout all the Middle Ages.

The Benedictine monk, Matthew of Paris, writing in the Monastery of St. Albans until his death in 1259 chronicled in his *Historica Anglorum* about sixty intriguing phenomena, emulated by William of Newburgh in Yorkshire, who wrote *Historia Anglicana* dying in 1208, and by *Nugis Curialium,* a miscellany of Walter Map, compiler of *De* anecdotes about the reign of Henry II.

Translations of their works, unobtainable in English, reveal much fascinating data, which would appear to suggest a survey by Extraterrestrials throughout the Middle Ages.

9th April, 1077 A.D. "Now in this year on Palm Sunday about six o'clock in a sky quite serene an immense star appeared near the sun." (Matthew of Paris.)

1110 A.D. "Now in this year a comet appeared in an unusual manner for rushing from the east it ascended to the heavens, it was seen to go not forward but backwards." (Matthew of Paris.)

1120 A.D. "Now in this year on the 13th of May a celestial light came over the Sepulchre of Our Lord." (Matthew of Paris.)

1189 A.D. "In the terrible silence a surpassing and greatly astonishing prodigy was seen about this time in England by many who up to the present time bear witness to those who did not see it. Above the public road which continued to London, a village by no means wretched called Dunstaple, by chance, so to speak, an hour after noon, those who looked up at the sky saw in the serene vault of heaven the striking shape of the Emblem of Our Lord with a dazzling milk-like whiteness and the conjoined form of a man crucified, which is painted in Church to the memory of the Passion of Our Lord and the devotion of the Faithful." (William of Newburgh.)

1200 A.D. "It was said a warning letter sent to Earth from God in Heaven, which men prophesied, hung in the lofty air for three days and nights, and everyone fell on the ground praying that this prodigy would forbode good to this world. And descending on Jerusalem it hung above the altar of St. Simon in Golgotha, where Jesus Christ was crucified." (Matthew of Paris.)

1227 A.D. "About this time when Master Oliver was preaching (for the Crusades) in Germany there appeared to all the people a Crucifix manifesting in the air about which sealed letters were sent under seal by several prelates to the University of Paris and read aloud to the public" (Matthew of Paris.)

(These crucifixes in the air in 1189 A.D. and 1227 A.D. recall the famous cross in the sky near

Rome in 312 A.D., which inspired Constantine to support the Christians and to establish Christianity as the Roman State religion. Had it not been for that phenomenon, possibly a spaceship, Christianity might not have triumphed!)

1228 A.D. " At that time the news was dispersed far and wide about Joseph Cartaphilus, whom Ananias baptised and who saw Christ crucified." (Matthew of Paris.)

1236 A.D. " About this time in the month of May along the borders of England and Wales there appeared portents in the sky of armed soldiers, superbly although hostilely congregated. This is seen to be incredible to all who hear this, unless the same thing is read in the beginning of Maccabees. The identical prodigy was seen in the heavens assembled in Ireland, of which apparition we are taught by a certain close relative of the Duke of Gloucester." (Matthew of Paris.)

We are infinitely obliged to this old Latin history of Matthew of Paris for drawing our attention to the Apocrypha to the Old Testament, the Second Book of Maccabees, Chapter V, verses 1 to 3 dealing with 170 B.C.

" About the same time Antiochus prepared his second voyage into Egypt.

" And then it happened, through all the city for the space of almost forty days, there were seen horsemen running in the air, in cloth of gold, and armed with lances running like a band of soldiers.

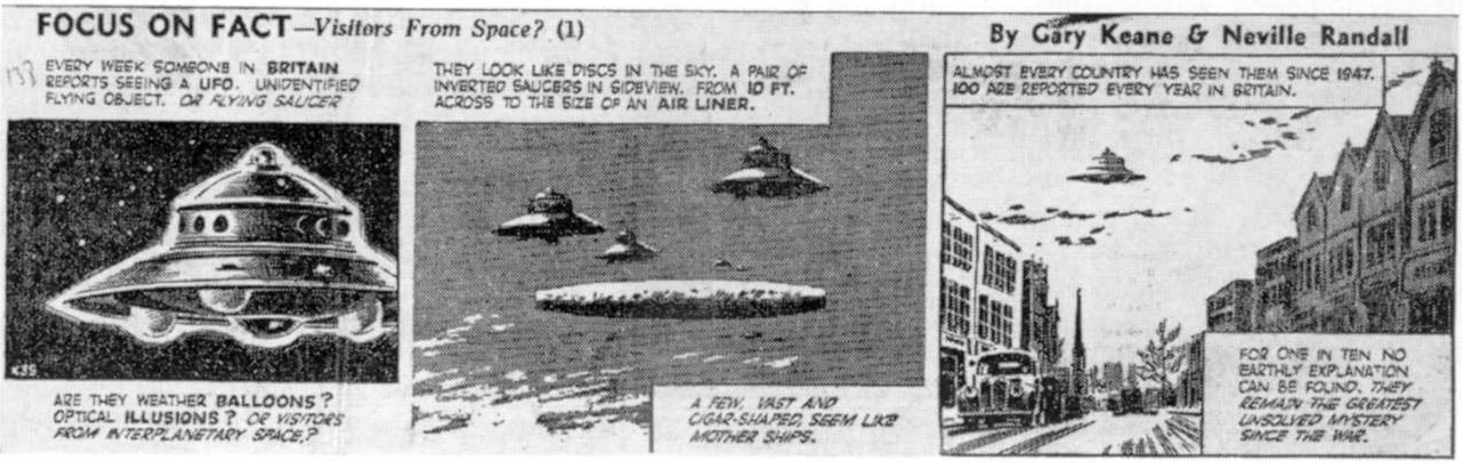
" And troops of horsemen in array encountering and running one against another, with shaking of shields, and multitude of pikes, and drawing of swords, and casting of darts, and glittering of golden ornaments and harness of all sorts.

" Whereof every man prayed that apparition might turn to good."

(When we recall, that the Red Indians thought of a railway-engine as an iron horse, we can understand the primitive Jews remembering the manoeuvres of spaceships as a cavalry battle.)

Similar portents in the skies are reported by oJsephus to have preceded the destruction of Jerusalem about 70 A.D. by the Romans, and similar signs may be looked for before the Coming of Christ, according to St. Matthew XXIV, v.29, St. Luke XXI, v.25 and Revelations VI, v.12.

The student of mediaeval literature is amazed by the parallel between the wonders of the Middle Ages and the flying saucer phenomena abounding today. Surely a vast and marvellous insight into extra-terrestrial influence on Earth is evoked by those magic chronicles of the Middle Ages?



This was the first instalment of the strip cartoon which appeared on February 10 in the London " Daily Sketch " and is reproduced by kind permission of the Editor. It serves as another indication that the subject is at last being taken seriously. The cartoons attracted a number of letters admitting to sightings which had previously been withheld through fear of ridicule. One or two readers went further and stated that when they had seen a flying saucer they thought they must be going mad ! Such is the power of propaganda.

RING CLOUDS AND ANGEL HAIR

By Barrie Pottage

In the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for July-August, 1963, there appeared a reference to the mysterious cloud formation seen over Arizona which "Science" declared to be unprecedented in years of sky-watching. The author has collated other similar sightings and they are printed here as they may may well have some connection with flying saucers. Appended is an instance of the angel's hair phenomenon. Except where noted the following observations were taken from the "U.S. Notices to Mariners" and they are reprinted with the permission of the compilers. The "Spiders' Filaments" and the "Ring Cloud" incidents are reprinted from the "Marine Observer" for October, 1963, with permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

1. North Pacific
4th April, 1963, 0500 G.M.T.
Lat. 31° 30′ N., long. 128° 53′ W.

Junior Second Officer B. Gronberg of the Swedish M.V. Kungsholm, Capt. H. Solje, Master reported the following:—

"On passage from Honolulu to Los Angeles a white cloud, more intensive than the surrounding clouds, was seen. A few seconds later the cloud transformed into several concentric rings which became larger and larger similar to the rings formed when a stone is dropped into smooth water. In the centre of the inner ring 6 or 7 bright white dots similar to bright stars were seen. The phenomenon was bearing 315° altitude 45° and was moving westward very rapidly. After about 3 minutes the dots separated into 2 groups, one group proceeded as before and the other group turned to the right and disappeared. The phenomenon lasted about 7 minutes."

Weather partly cloudy with good visibility, wind N.E. force 1, temperatures: dry 20.0° C., wet 16.8° C.

2. North Pacific
15th June, 1963, 1120 G.M.T.
Lat. 7° 10′ N., long. 81° 26′ W.

Second Officer George R. Berens of the American S.S. Elizabethport, Capt. John T. E. Bodden, Master, reported the following:—

"On passage from the Panama Canal to Long Beach, California, an unusual cloud was observed. It was composed of 4 concentric rings and pure white. It bore 280° altitude 35°. It appeared above large cumulus clouds which were tinged with grey and pale yellowish tints. Two other clouds similar but of less regular formation were observed at the same time."

Weather cloudy, wind 31° at 5 knots, slight sea and swell, barometer 1012.9 mbs., air temp. 26.7° C., sea temp. 28.9° C.

3. Red Sea
1st November, 1962, 2005 S.M.T.
Lat. 19° 37′ N., long. 39° 10′ E.

Mr. B. F. Keith, Extra Third Officer, of the S.S. City of Liverpool, Capt. T. S. Dennis, Master, and many of the ship's company, observed the following:—

"At 2005 S.M.T. a ball of what seemed to be dense white cloud was seen on a bearing of 260° at an altitude of about 7°. As it approached, and passed ahead of the vessel, moving in a northeasterly direction, it assumed the form of a smoke ring, the apparent diameter of which, when bearing 350°, was about 5 or 6 times that of the full moon. The ring, which became elliptical in shape, as shown in the accompanying drawing, was thought to be rotating in an anticlockwise direction. By 2015 it had completely disappeared, having become increasingly indistinct as it receded from the ship. The sky was cloudless and visibility was very good. The moon, age 4 days, was setting on a bearing of about 252°."

Wind, light northwesterly airs, air temp. 86.2° F., wet bulb 77.3°, sea 88.1°.

Met. Office's remark:— "We can suggest no reasonable explanation of the phenomena described above."

The following reports, in date order, concern objects with halos or rings around them: —

1. North Atlantic

4th November, 1959, 2155 G.M.T.
Lat. 19° 57′ N., long. 52° 21′ W.

A Panamanian ship reported the following: —

"A bright body, of first magnitude, with a halo, was seen crossing the sky on an easterly course at a high speed. It took 5 minutes to disappear above the horizon."

2. North Atlantic

4th November, 1959, 2155 G.M.T.
Lat. 15° 00′ N., long. 27° 22′ W.

A British ship reported the following: —

"An object, like a planet with a halo around it, was sighted bearing 275° altitude 7°. It moved up to altitude 40° bearing about 206° and then disappeared. It was visible 10-15 minutes."

3. Philippines

5th June, 1960, 1128 G.M.T.
Lat. 6° 53′ N., long. 126° 32′ E.

A Danish ship reported the following: —

"A round flying object, size of Jupiter, yellowish with encircling rings, was seen bearing 50° altitude 28°. It travelled at a very high speed, estimated over 3,000 m.p.h., for 4 seconds when it disappeared behind clouds bearing 90°. There was no trail, but a lingering light followed the object."

4. North Atlantic

25th June, 1960, 0016 G.M.T.
Lat. 21° 03′ N., long. 48° 52′ W.

A Liberian ship reported the following: —

"A flying body was first observed bearing 277° altitude 7°. It rose at high speed to 90° and then disappeared, having been visible for about 2 minutes. The body was surrounded by a circular white cloud, and through binoculars it looked like a planet (size of Neptune), and had a smaller moon in front of it."

5. North Pacific

21st September, 1961, 1700 G.M.T.
Lat. 31° 30′ N., 175° 30′ E.

An American ship reported the following: —

"A few minutes before morning twilight a white opaque mass, about twice the size of full moon, appeared in the north west, altitude about 20°. It continued to climb toward the zenith and at approximately 40° altitude the mass opened gradually to appear as a huge halo with a satellite in the centre, having very nearly the brightness of a first magnitude star. By the time it reached zenith it had more than doubled its size, but then diminished as it proceeded south eastwards. It continued to decrease in size but did not appear to shrink into a corona as it had appeared, but rather faded out completely at altitude 20°. The entire mass was visible 8 to 10 minutes."

6. North Atlantic

27th November, 1963, 1926 G.M.T.
Lat. 13° 05′ N., 22° 45′ W.

The Master of the Panamanian M.V. Kimolos reported the following: —

"A celestial body the size of a planet with bright circles was observed bearing 225° altitude 32°. The body moved at high speed to the south southeast and disappeared bearing 175° at 1927 G.M.T."

SPIDERS' FILAMENTS AT MONTREAL

M.V. Roxburgh Castle. Captain R. H. Pape.

The following is the text of a letter received from the Master dated 10th October, 1962: —

"At 2000 G.M.T. while the Roxburgh Castle was moored to her berth in Montreal, I was walking round outside my accommodation and noticed fine white filaments of unknown kind hanging around stanchions and topping lift wires of derricks.

"Calling the attention of the Chief Officer, I pulled one of these strands from a stanchion and found it to be quite tough and resilient. I stretched it but it would not break easily (as, for instance, a cobweb would have done) and after keeping it in my hand for 3 or 4 minutes it disappeared completely; in other words it just vanished into nothing.

"Looking up we could see small cocoons of the material floating down from the sky but as far as we could ascertain there was nothing either above or at street level to account for this extraordinary occurrence.

"Unfortunately I could not manage to preserve samples of the filaments as the disappearance took place so quickly.

"I would be very glad to know what explanation, if any, can be given to account for the phenomenon."

Note. Mr. D. J. Clark, of the Natural History Museum, comments as follows: —

"Spiders are, I think, responsible for the phenomena you describe. The majority of these particular spiders belong to the family Linyphiidae, and mature in the autumn. In the autumn on fine, warm and sunny days, especially with a fairly heavy early morning dew, the

spiders begin to disperse and migrate in order to colonise new areas where the food supply is greater. The method they use is known as 'ballooning.' As the sun dries off the dew, upward air currents are created. The spider runs to the top of a plant, fence, etc., and lifting the tip of the abdomen emits a globule of liquid silk. This silk is drawn out in a thread by the air currents and hardens as a result of this drawing out, not simply by contact with the air. When the thread is long enough to support the spider, it lets go of its support and flies away. The spiders sometimes are carried many miles. Eventually, they come down to earth and on landing cut free the 'parachute.' This again floats away and becomes entangled with other threads, sometimes quite thick bands are thus formed, and when this again settles down it is very conspicuous. The single thread is very fine and difficult to see unless the light is reflected from it, but when entangled together with other threads it is easy to see and quite tough and resilient.

"I cannot explain the disappearance of these strands when held in the hand. It may be that the threads of the strand you describe were not so entangled and when handled broke up into individual threads thus becoming very inconspicuous. Spider silk cannot melt because heat does not affect it, it is on the whole less soluble than true silk."

LIFE ON THE MOON?

by the Reverend Guy J. Cyr

THE leading article in the January-February issue was, as usual, excellent, and I think that one of its points could well be elaborated. The leader writer remarked that the scientist is logical in rejecting that which is impossible, but the philosopher goes deeper and asks: "Does man know the *limits* of possibilities?" Obviously he does not, for he keeps on discovering and inventing things which, in the previous generation, were "impossible." I do not like that pessimistic word, especially when it is applied to the question of extraterrestrial life. In my judgment, the scientist as an individual and privately does not like it either. Even in his carefully worded public statements you can see the typical scientist today believes clandestinely that there are living creatures elsewhere in the cosmos.

Years ago telescopic observations "proved" that the surface of the moon was covered by rocks casting weird shadows. Then, the astronomers "discovered" smaller pieces in the form of volcanic slag and ashes and, of course, the reports are filed with the unproven word "lifeless." Then later the word "dust" becomes prominent as a description of the material which allegedly constitutes the lunar surface. It's much better; but, it's far from being as *lively* as "soil," "loam" or "humus."

However, that "dust" is more mysterious than life itself, for according to various researchers for the U.S. Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration this dust is fibrous and skeletal; and there is nothing like it on earth.

Briefly, these experts in the past year or so, after analysing carefully data obtained from visual, photometric, polarimetric, infra-red, microwave and radio-wave observations, concluded variously that the surface of our natural satellite must be covered with a material comprising "deep holes with vertical walls and sharp edges." This substance, whatever it is, they continue, must be covered by dust which must cling to the slopes, even the vertical walls of the deep cavities. These quotations are from the *official* report made by NASA, December, 1962.

A Positive Approach

However, the very same scientists were much more free to talk and, therefore, much bolder in their individual reports made in writing or orally. Notice the positive approach in their expressions when they described recently the composition and structure of the lunar surface: "powder that has a cobweb-like structure." Another: "deep layers of fluffy matter." A third

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one: "The moon's surface is fuzzy to a depth of about an inch . . .. having mostly open spaces as in reindeer moss . . . a skeletal fuzz."

From these and other reports including shades, tints and the albedo, I boldly conclude that the moon is covered with vegetation which, unlike ours, is hairy or woolly. Let me spell it out for you and show how it matches the above-mentioned latest descriptions of the lunar surface. Some of these plants, in my opinion, would be trees, standing vertically like ours. The stems and the branches, if any, would have broad, rubbery, thick leaves well adapted to the rigorous environment. As some terrestrial organisms, but to a higher degree, through aeons of evolution, they would have developed an insulating-sealing integument which prevents the escape of heat and moisture. moreover, they would probably have the ability to store much water, extract oxygen from some compound, etc.

An Interesting Parallel

On the Santa Marta mountains in north-eastern Colombia there are sheep-like bushes covered by hairy or woolly leaves. As on the moon, they are exposed *alternately* to the dry, hot conditions of a desert in the summer and then to the arctic cold of the winter. Why couldn't the leaves and stems of my hypothetical lunar trees be thus covered? Incidentally, since the "surface of the moon is a very poor conductor of heat," and since the atmosphere, if any, is very thin, the transfer of heat from one place to another is very slow. So, as the experts point out, if a given area on the moon has a very low albedo it could be very hot there and yet very cold just a few miles away or even just around the corner where the albedo is very high. There are other considerations which would bring about these microclimates: thermal capacity of substances, very high mountains, which present the surface more directly and at the same time cause long and long-lasting shadows.

So, my hypothetical lunar forest would fit the descriptive words of the experts. The "deep holes" would be the spaces between the trees; "the vertical walls" would be the sides of these trees. Since the atmosphere, if any, is very thin there would be no winds, no rain, snow, etc. So, these "trees" would tend to have well defined, sharp edges, which would behave like walls as far as the above mentioned electromagnetic waves are concerned. There is no implication, because there is no way of telling, that these "walls" are hard or if they are covered by "dust." And now how about that "dust" which is found to cling to the "vertical walls" of these "holes," and which, according to some, is about an inch thick? The "hair" or "wool" on the broad, rubbery leaves would be very numerous and thick but short and flexible with possibly horizontal ramifications, too; it would be the kind selected by nature in an evolutionary process as the fittest to survive the bombardment from cosmic rays and space debris. This "wool" could conceivably ramificate in all directions and give the effect of a "cobweb-like, skeletal structure."

What We May See

But, some experimenters find that the "dust" is "deep." They probably got "echoes" from a whole tree while "looking" down at and through it vertically. That's deep, soft, fuzzy and skeletal. So, the scientist who found that reindeer moss was the most satisfactory model, said what the others wanted to say but did not have the government's permission to do so. They will very soon: perhaps even before this is published, for, as I am writing this very line, Ranger-VI is on its way to the moon with six cameras, and these will "see" objects which are not bigger than a card-table (2.5 ft. × 2.5 ft.). So, I expect that Sunday, February 2, 1964, the world will see on TV all kinds of "weird" plants and animals including, perhaps, humanoids, who must be very hairy.

(EDITOR'S NOTE. — This article was written before Ranger VI was launched and before it was known that the photographic devices had failed to function. In the London *Daily Telegraph*, and only in that paper as far as we can tell, it was reported that Dr. Kal Rakas of the Lowell Observatory near Flagstaff, Arizona, indicated that something was visible near the target area of Ranger VI about 90 seconds *before* it hit the moon. Dr. Rakas, the report continues, said he saw with the aid of a large reflector a small flash about 50 or 60 miles from the impact point).

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Stafford Plastic

Effigy from the Sky

This mysterious occurrence, which could be the work of a practical joker, was reported in the Wolverhampton *Express and Star* of January 21: " It was just going dark when the object floated gracefully out of the sky into a garden at Dixey-Road, Stafford, on Saturday. But it caused quite a stir.

" Was it a man from Mars. people wondered and straightaway a call went to Stafford police calling for someone to investigate.

" When the police arrived they found not a man from Mars, but a giant effigy of a man, 20ft. in length which was gas inflated.

"Made of black plastic material in the shape of a body, it is now awaiting a claimant at Stafford police station.

" Said a police spokesman today: 'This was obviously a prank. It is not Government property. It is just a plastic effigy and it was inflated with gas, Where it came from we don't know and we are not making extensive inquiries to find out either.' "

As a police " spokesman " has dismissed the whole affair as a joke, probably nothing more will be heard of the matter. However, it is far from easy to make a plastic model. It must therefore have come from some factory in which case it should be possible to identify it. Mr. Wilfred Daniels, who kindly sent us the above cutting is making further enquiries.

Kent Mystery

While the incident reported in the London *Evening News* of February 14 may have no connection with flying saucers, it is reprinted here in case it has: " Police from Cranbrook and Hawkhurst in Kent were today keeping watch in the Weald area for a huge, unknown animal with two-inch razor-sharp claws.

" The hunt began when farm worker Mr. John Golding, of Park Cottages, Hawkhurst, found a set of giant paw marks leading across Duval's Farm.

" He called the farm owner, Mr. F. C. Brinsley, and together they followed the trail across the farm. Then they told the police. Police measurements show that the animal's front feet are nearly two feet apart.

" A local vet. Mr. Douglas Good believes that the prints were made by a member of the 'big' cat family, which was heavy enough to sink nearly two inches into the fairly firm ground."

One or two points may be noted. It would seem strange that this item of news should have produced no sequel. An animal of this weight would surely have been traced by its footprints. If they suddenly ceased they can only have disappeared " into thin air." As nothing more has been heard of the mystery that is presumably what has happened. It is also interesting to recall the mystery cheetah which was alleged to be roaming the Shooters Hill area of London last summer at the time of the Charlton Crater affair. The London *Daily Mail* did connect the animal with flying saucers, but merely to ridicule both mysteries. The Cranbrook " animal," however, cannot be so easily dismissed as an hallucination: the footprints remain to frustrate the scoffer. But was it an animal?

Isle of Wight

Mystery Hole

Our old friends the Bomb Disposal Squad are having a busy time these days, but they seem to be uncovering more mysteries than bombs. They were out recently at Meopham in Kent; but we have heard nothing at all about their discoveries. Another outing for them was in a field at Puckwell Farm, Niton, Isle of Wight.

The Southampton *Southern Evening Echo* on January 23 carried a photograph of the mystery hole which was described as being 15 feet deep and two feet wide. Leonard G. Cramp, author of *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer* visited the field and commented: " The indications are that it might be a bomb which has been protected by a layer of stone which has collapsed to cause the fissure. As long as it was protected by a layer of stone it could have been ploughed over for years." He added, however, that some connection with a space object could not be ruled out.

Chiswick Sighting

The *Brentford and Chiswick Times* carried the following report in its December 27, 1963, issue: " As seven-year-old Julian Mills was walking home in Had-

ley-gardens, Chiswick, at dusk on Friday, he saw a strange object moving across the sky. Certain it was a flying saucer, he called to his mother and 12-year-old sister, Ria, walking behind. They fetched out neighbours to see the sight.

"Then, from his home in Hadley-gardens, Julian telephoned Chiswick police station about the huge object with six triangular shaped pale yellow lights. He told a reporter this week: 'It was too large for an aeroplane. I could not make out a shape. It was moving along pretty slowly. I was worried because I thought it was a flying saucer and might land on our roof. So I rang the police station and asked for the sergeant. The sergeant said that if I saw anything like it again to call the police again. He said I was a very observant boy."

"Ria, who goes to the Corona stage school. Chiswick, and has appeared on television, said: 'I thought at first it was a star formation, then a flying saucer.'

"Said her mother, Mrs. Connie Mills: 'The object was moving steadily with a droning sound. It was too large for an aeroplane. The neighbours were puzzled. They had never seen anything like it.'

"She added: 'The children are interested in lots of things.'

"A spokesman at the Air Ministry said this week: 'As far as I know, no reports have come to us about anything like this.'"

More from Southampton

The following letters appeared in the *Southern Evening Echo* on February 1 and 4 respectively: "I wonder if any reader saw an unusual silent object in the sky above Winchester at about 6.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 30th.

"The object was on an erratic southerly course, and had the appearance of a large moving star. It has been suggested to me that it was probably the new American satellite, but this seems improbable in view of its apparently slow speed." — P. Birley (Tankards, Springvale-road, Headbourne Worthy, Winchester)."

"With reference to Mr. P. Birley's letter in Saturday's 'Echo,' I think I may that evening have seen the same object as he has seen, though this one was travelling in a northerly direction. Time, 18.15 hours.

"It was just like a very bright star—very, very high in the beautifully clear night sky and was certainly travelling very fast. At first I thought it was just another very bright star, but glancing at it again I suddenly realised it was closing the gap between two other bright stars above and below it. I called my wife out to see it and she said she thought there was a reflection on either side of it, which bore out what I also thought. When I first spotted it it had come from over the Docks direction and was travelling slightly NNE, and I had it in view for about three minutes before it disappeared from sight, and I could hear no noise whatever. It certainly has me puzzled. —H. W. Hoare (7, Hartley-avenue, Highfield, Southampton)." (Credit to Mr. Peter J. Kelly).

Over Leicester

The *Leicester Mercury,* on January 21 carried the following letter from one of its readers, Mr. R. Stevenson of 100, Marwood-road, Leicester: "Did any other reader observe an unusual object in the sky on Wednesday evening last week?

"It was about eight o'clock when I saw an object which was round in shape hovering above the city centre. It continually changed colour from blue to white, and first appeared in the east travelling toward the city centre.

"Many friends and neighbours living on the Stocking Farm Estate also saw it."

Wolverhampton Again

The Wolverhampton *Express and Star* in its March issue carried the following report: "'Flying saucers' were over the West Midlands again last night. Several people reported 'strange lights in the sky' and did not attribute them to anything so prosaic as tail-lights on aircraft.

"Mr. Harris, of 170, Lea-road, Wolverhampton, telephoned to the *Express and Star* to say he had seen a huge red glowing object travelling fast.

"A few minutes later Mr. Fred Burton, of 34, Bridle-road, Madeley, Shropshire, telephoned to say that he had just seen a round object, 'whitish-orange, with four red lights,' passing overhead.

"There were no reports of a 'flying saucer' having landed . . ."

Mystery Blast

From the London *Evening* News, March 19: "A mystery object that exploded in a great flash and disappeared into the atmosphere in white columns of smoke early today, was reported by the pilots of two transatlantic airliners.

"Capt. E. D. Morrison, pilot of a Boeing Clipper jet which flew into London Airport from New York, reported seeing it. And so did Capt. R. A. Botthos, a pilot of a DC8 which flew to Frankfurt from New York. It happened 200 miles west of Land's End.

"Capt. Botthos said: 'I saw the object, which was travelling on a north to south trajectory, explode in a big flash and trailing columns of smoke on re-entering the atmosphere. I was flying at 29,000 feet. It was a spectacular sight. I don't know what it could have been.'

"Capt. Morrison was in the same vicinity and flying at 31,000 feet. He said: 'I have seen hundreds of meteors and things of that nature, but I have never seen anything like this before. It woke up the sky in a great white flash.'"

Brighton Saucer

The Brighton *Evening Argus* in its February 27 issue carried the following report: " See anything in the sky about 1.20 this afternoon? Something long and cylindrical? And flying high, glinting in the sun as it came in over the sea at Kemp Town, Brighton?

" Several people rang the *Evening Argus* to report the mystery object and ask: 'Could it have been a flying saucer? '

" Said Mr. John Roberts, of St. George's-terrace: 'I was eating my lunchtime sandwiches between the two piers when I saw the thing. It was sort of cigar-shaped, glowing red and moving very, very fast indeed. There were no wings and it was clearly visible. And I'm sure I wasn't seeing things.' "

AUSTRALIA

A "pencil-shaped light"

From the Melbourne *Sun*, January 16:

" People in several parts of Southern Victoria reported seeing a mysterious pencil-shaped object in the sky last night.

" At Trafalgar, the Rev. R. E. Hillbrick, of Richmond, said he saw a 'pencil-shaped light' moving across the western sky. After moving towards Melbourne it disappeared behind a cloud. At Rye, Mr. H. Morgan, of Governmen-road, said that he watched a long thin object in the sky for about 10 minutes around 8 p.m.

" Mr. Morgan said it seemed rounded at one end and shone yellow when the sun's rays fell on it. 'I was in the Air Force for 25 years and I know it was not a plane,' he said.

" At Philip Island, Mr. J. Collins, of Upwey, said that a thin object about 100 ft. long moved back and forward across the sky towards the west. From time to time a white light flashed from the front. It was moving very slowly.

" First Constable Bray, of Phillip Island, reported to the Department of Civil Aviation that he watched the object through field glasses. It appeared to be leaving a trail of flame and sparks. An officer of the department said last night there had been no planes reported in the area of the sightings."

NEW ZEALAND

Ring Shaped Object

Mr. V. E. Burnett of Ngongotaha, wrote in the *Dominion* of Wellington in its January 22 issue the following letter: " May I through the *Dominion* tell of a most strange visitation of an unknown object seen in the night sky at 10.15 p.m. on December 28?

" Travelling slowly in an east-west direction low enough down in the horizon to be visible through trees, there came a moon-sized, glowing, pulsating, ruby red circle of light composed of equal-sized segments, the spaces between easily discernible. It moved in leisurely fashion across the sky, pulsating evenly at regular intervals. While watching this ring-shaped object, I was amazed to see it turn back on its track about one third of the way, make a slight detour to the left and head south over the town. Trees and a hill prevented me from seeing what actually became of it.

" The whole sequence of events from first to last sighting was at least five minutes. It was a strange and beautiful sight like a ruby bracelet against black velvet. I would be very interested to know whether anyone in the *Dominion* territory saw this nocturnal phenomenon."

No Satelite

From the *New Zealand Herald*, January 9: " Following the reporting of a strange flying light travelling at high speed over Muriwai beach on Tuesday night (January 7) other Aucklanders have reported seeing mysterious moving lights, brighter than any stars.

" Mrs. Eileen Nibloch, of Vincent-road, Northcote, and Mr. E. Hurley were looking for the American Echo satellite when they saw a bright light travelling in the opposite direction. A neighbour, Mrs. H. Hena, also saw the object travelling due east. Mrs. Nibloch said: 'It was travelling very fast and we saw it for only about a minute. It was definitely not a falling star. We know the movements of the satellites quite well. It passed overhead and disappeared in just a flash. We couldn't believe our eyes. It looked as though someone had speeded up a satellite, but it was brighter.'

" A young Auckland man on holiday in Wahi said he saw a similar light on Saturday night (January 4). He preferred to remain anonymous. His description, while not tallying with the 'zigzag' course reported by Mr. and Mrs. J. Eyre, of Swanson, at Muriwai, tallied perfectly with the Northcote report.

" 'I was fishing at night, talking to some people when their daughter said " Oh, look there's a shooting star," ' he said. 'But it kept on going.'

" The light was travelling north to south very fast. 'Satellites just don't go so fast,' said the man. 'It was less than a minute in crossing the sky.'

" The light was travelling at about 75 degrees."
(Credit to Mr. Norman Wardle).

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Dr. Menzel

Sir,—We would like to congratulate Professor Menzel on his lucid article, in your March-April issue. It contains, however, a few unfortunate errors and omissions which affect some of Professor Menzel's main points:

a) The criterion for an approximate straight line:

Mebane suggests a triangle whose largest angle exceeds $178\frac{1}{2}°$. We calculate that if 3 points are randomly distributed within a circle radius 'a', A distance x from the centre, B u from it at ø from the radius through A, then the chance that angle CAB is at least (π—e) radians is $\frac{1}{2}er^2/\pi a^2$ where $(r\text{-}x\cos ø)^2=a^2\text{-}x^2\sin^2 ø$. Letting A and B wander round the circle, the probability is $\int\int\int(\frac{1}{2}er^2/\pi a^2)$ $(2xdx/a^2)$ $(udud ø/\frac{1}{2}\pi a^2)$ where u runs from O to r, x from O to a, ø from O to π. We cannot evaluate this integral; it certainly lies between $e/4\pi$ and $9e/4\pi$. The value is probably around e/π, which would make $f = 3e/\pi$, since it doesn't matter which of the corners A,B,C has the obtuse angle. Experiment suggests f is about $2e/\pi$. If the critical angle is taken as $178\frac{1}{2}°$, e is $\pi/12O$ and f is somewhere near 1/4O. We invite any reader with a computer or a great deal of patience to find an approximate value for f. A rough estimate for f may be found by restricting A,B and C to be on the circle, not within it. This gives $f = 3e/\pi = 1/4O$. If the lines are as accurate as Michel suggests (*Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, p.75), the critical angle could be increased to $179\frac{1}{2}°$ without destroying many of the alignments, making f = 1/12O. If f can be calculated from the integral this will be a value much more appropriate than that obtained by the corridor method.

b) Notes on statistical methods:

(i) If f is the chance that 3 random points lie on an approximate straight line, it is not altogether obvious that f^2 should be the chance that 4 random points do so. It all depends how "random points" and "approximate" straight lines are defined.

(ii) The $\binom{n}{m}$ sets of m points selected from n points are not statistically independent, and this means that the most likely number of m-point lines is only roughly $\binom{n}{m}f^{m\text{-}2}$.

(iii) "f multiplied by itself m-2 times" is $f^{m\text{-}1}$ not $f^{m\text{-}2}$. f multiplied by itself once is certainly f^2 not f.

(iv) The significance of the "most likely" number of 3-point lines: As f is uncertain, the argument based on the number of 3-point lines can demonstrate nothing. If f=1/4O, the standard deviation in the number of 3-point lines is roughly $\binom{n}{3}f^{3/2}$. If n = 27 (7 Oct. '54) and f = 1/4O, this is about 12, and the most likely number of lines = 73. This means that on three random diagrams, the number of 3-point lines will probably be between 61 and 85 on two of them, and less than 61 or more than 85 on the third.

c) A fundamental error.

Professor Menzel states that the Oct. 7 diagram contains 19 3-point lines. In fact each 4-point line counts as 4 3-point lines, and out of the 7-point line one can pick $\binom{7}{3}$ = 35 sets of 3 points in line. From the way the formula $\binom{n}{m}3f^{m\text{-}2}$ is calculated these must be counted separately. This makes the correct number of such lines as follows.

	3-pt.	4-pt.	5-pt.	6-pt.	7-pt.
Observed	66	38	21	7	1
Calculated: f = 1/4O	73	11	1	.0104	.00077
f = 1/8O	37	2.7	.17	.0013	.00005

Whilst the 3-point lines are about average, the 5-point lines are significantly commoner.

d) The mathematical discipline of which Aimé Michel is thinking is either Projective or Combinatorial Geometry.

(ii) The fact that the number of m-point lines is not below chance saves Michel from having to propound the contradictory proposition that the pattern formed by the sightings both encourages and avoids straight lines.

e) Summary.

This problem is very complicated statistically and the numbers of m-point lines predicted can only be calculated as to order of magnitude. Professor Menzel has been led astray by "bad statistics" and erroneous arithmetic. Aimé Michel's straight lines as published in *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* are indeed significant, although probably not quite so unlikely as Mebane thought.—Peter M. Seeviour, M. N. Huxley (Open Scholars in Mathematics at St. John's College in the University of Cambridge).

Sir,—The Menzel versus Michel arguments are very informative and amusing. May I point out one rather obvious statistical error in Dr. Menzel's calculations: he omitted the "rule" that the direction of movement

of any saucer was taken into consideration by Michel—but not by himself.

If Dr. Menzel had taken into account the chances of three or more sightings falling on the same straight line *and* involving an object travelling to within a certain angular limit, say 1° in 180° (or what he will), then the chances of this taking place would have been far less—he can work that out for himself I am sure. Those saucers sighted in a stationary attitude would not, of course, apply but they are, I believe, in a minority and their effects may also be obtained mathematically. Arguments based on this so far forgotten fact are many and I am sure if both Menzel's and Michel's attentions were drawn to it they will use them all.—M. G. Maunsell, 218A, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts.

Menzel versus Michel

Sir,

Dr. Menzel is not really in a position to accuse others of being unfair in an argument when his own methods are not above suspicion. I would like to point out that he has been less than fair to Aimé Michel (see the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March - April issue) when he accuses him of lack of method in including those 1954 French sightings alleged to be "poor." Michel was well aware of the need for discipline and makes this perfectly clear in his book on page 51 when he writes: "Applying the methods always used by investigating committees up to that time, I discarded all the poorly reported, poorly proved, and doubtful cases." It was Jean Cocteau who persuaded him to include *all* the sightings and the patterns then emerged. There is surely nothing wrong in this. What Michel did, in fact, was to remove the subjective element from the survey. No scientist can complain and, in any case, Michel has been quite open about the method he employed. If Dr. Menzel had wanted to be wholly fair he would have mentioned all the circumstances or, better still, refrained from making an unjustified innuendo.

While Jean Cocteau *may* have expected a pattern to emerge it is wrong to suggest, on the evidence available, that Michel sought deliberately to impose it by unfair selection. — Charles Bowen, 8 Paxton Gardens, Woodham Lane, Woking, Surrey.

The 'entities' : the facts and the legend

Sir,

Thanks to Aimé Michel and some of our friends in France and in the U.S., new information has been gathered about the reports of alleged "landings." Although this is not worth a new article, we feel that the readers of the Review should know about these developments. On the basis of these new documents, we are able to reject as hoaxes a number of the "contact claims" considered in our original statistical description. This is the case in the Mertrud (October 5, 1954, witness Narcy) observation, in the Kearney (Nebraska, November 5, 1957) incident and in the Sierra Gardunha sighting in Portugal, September 24, 1954: this point was the famous "seventh point" on BAVIC, discussed by Dr. Menzel. It is definitely a hoax. In addition, we recommend the rejection as probable hoaxes or illusions of the following cases: Jussey (October 1, 1954), Loctudy (October 5), Roverbella (October 5), Brovst (September 12, 1953), Greenhills (August 25, 1955), Everittstown (November 6, 1957) and the Province of Salta case of October 24, 1960 (insufficient information or conflicting data are the reasons of these rejections).

By checking against original sources we have also found a mistake in the G. Quincy catalogue: the sighting at Ste Marie d'Herblay (October 16, 1954) should be disregarded; the child named Gilbert Lelay is the witness in the October 12 case at Erbray, and the story is definitely another hoax.

As a consequence of this improvement and clarification of the files, the category of the "giants," already very dubious (see FSR of January-February 1964, page 9) can be completely disregarded now, as a product of pure imagination. And the "Erchin Entity" (A dwarf with no diver's suit) should be considered with renewed caution: we are still unable to show that all six cases of "hairy-faced martians" were hoaxes, but: the Mertrud case was definitely one; the Loctudy case is far from clear; there was only one witness in the Montluçon (October 10) case; no UFO was seen in the Erchin case, only the "dwarf," and there was only one witness . . . and we might add that big fat apes do get loose from time to time! None of the alleged "contacts" of this category can be considered very seriously from the data we now have. In our opinion, the investigation about the entities associated with Type I sightings narrows now into the more simple problem of checking only two categories of reports: the descriptions of men of the Chaleix type and the descriptions of "dwarfs with diver's suits." Obviously, the discussion about the real meaning of these incidents in connection with the Arnold Phenomenon remains open.—J. Vallée.

The Fourth Dimension

Sir,—The article written by Luis Schoenherr was fascinating in its attempt to explain some of the most mysterious aspects of UFO manifestations. And every attempt to discuss the evidence scientifically is to be encouraged. It is, however, everyone's duty to examine the truth and plausibility of each hypothesis. Besides the methodology of science there is philosophy as an additional tool. It is proposed to show, using a little elementary philosophy, that the basic assumption in this article is not true. I refer to the hypothesis based on the " Fourth Dimension."

It is now proved beyond all scientific doubt that the Special and General Theories of Relativity are " true " in their fields.

The Fourth Dimension is "Time" and we all know it and live in it. Mr. Schoenherr should therefore have referred rather to the Fifth Dimension, whose identity we do not yet suspect.

It must be pointed out that the notion of beings living on a plane and unconscious of any three-dimensional object outside that plane is only a notion. This notion was used by Dunn (among others) to demonstrate his thesis on Serial Time. These illustrations are used by Science to make things clearer. But they are only analogies and may break down in some conditions.

Now, things exist in two ways, either (a) they are spiritual or (b) they are material. Material things are limited in space and have a beginning and an end in time. So, to say that an object exists is to say that it is something with three spatial dimensions.

We know that as a matter of common experience all material things have length and breadth and thickness. There are no such things as " flat planers." The perfect plane does not exist in nature. Even if " flat-planers " could exist in or near on the plane they might have eyes seeing up or down since they *could not* have them on an edge of no thickness. These eyes could " see " an object poised over them.

In order to explain the mystery we call " Gravity " mathematically, " n " dimensions may be required. But then we live in these " n " dimensions and presumably we will recognise them when someone has told us what they are.—S. A. Paris, Brooklands, Up Holland, Lancashire.

Moon Rocket

Sir,—In January this year the Americans landed a rocket on the Moon, apparently within 15 miles of its target, but I have seen no comment on a fact that may be highly significant.

In December, 1953, the late Dr. Percy Wilkins claimed that he had observed a bridge on the Moon which had also been observed by an American astronomer. This giant construction was seen by both to be on the edge of the Mare Crisium, the Sea of Crises, situated between two promontories, Lavimium and Olivium. The American rocket landed in the Mare Tranquillitatis or the Sea of Tranquillity, about 300 miles from the bridge seen by Dr. Wilkins. Had the cameras carried by the American rocket functioned they were supposed to have photographed an extremely wide area — between 9,480 and 1,950 square miles. The bridge in question, it will be seen, is well within that area. Was the target

(Continued on Page 32)

A MESSAGE FROM OUTER SPACE?

AN announcement of a mysterious message having been received came from Television's Granada News at approximately 11.10 p.m. on January 10: "Mr. E. Lowe, a radio amateur, claims to have picked up several times over the past week signals from 'Outer Space' in English and a foreign language. Jodrell Bank said it was a hoax." The *Wigan Evening Post and Chronicle* on January 10, also reported the matter in greater detail: "Northern radio experts were today trying to trace the source of a short wave message from 'outer space' received by an Ashton-in-Makerfield radio amateur.

"On five mornings in the past week 23-year-old labourer, Eric Lowe, of 48, Lowbank Road, has tuned in to hear a voice speaking alternately in English and a foreign language. The message says: 'THIS IS A TEST TRANSMISSION FOR CIRCUIT ADJUSTMENT PURPOSES FROM A RADIO STATION OF THE DOMANIAL TELE - COMMUNICATION OR DOREVATION. THIS STATION IS SITUATED IN OUTER SPACE.' "

Mr. Lowe, when questioned, said that the first time he heard these words was on Saturday, January 4, from 12.50 a.m. to 1.10 a.m. Since then he claimed to have picked up the message on four mornings at about the same time. He thought it must be a satellite. His friends were sceptical, but when invited to his home they were able to hear it for themselves.

While B.B.C. officials were trying to trace the source of the message, a spokesman of the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, Cheshire, made the following comment: "We have heard of the same message being picked up before, although not by us here. Someone seems to be doing this as a hoax. It should really be reported to the G.P.O."

Mr. Wilfrid Daniels went to see the radio amateur, Mr. Eric Lowe, in the course of his investigations on behalf of the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. Mr. Lowe has made a recording of the "space messages" for analysis. He pointed out that the frequency is approximately in the region of 30 metres (ten megacycles) and he has picked them up over a dozen times so far, once on a Wednesday at 7.30

p.m. A pronounced "Doppler" effect is noticeable which suggests that the signals, whatever they are, are in fact coming from outer space. The transmissions are accompanied by metallic noises. Mr. Lowe's set is very powerful and was made by him. He added the information that the B.B.C. has so far been unable to trace the origin of the signals.

Whatever the source of the signals, it must be borne in mind that Jodrell Bank is allergic to "messages from space." In its September-October, 1961, issue the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW reported that the Public Relations Officer declared that they wanted to have nothing to do with flying saucers. This repudiation was caused by the startling admissions made by the Russian woman astronomer, Alla Masevich, who was on a visit to Jodrell Bank in an attempt to trace a Venus probe that had gone silent. The signals being received were alleged to be intelligent, but were declared by Alla Masevich not to be emanating from the Russian probe but from "the surface of Venus." Jodrell Bank, left with the unwelcome but inescapable conclusion, if words meant anything, that intelligent code messages were being received from Venus, hastened to invoke any rationalisation that could be employed to destroy the heresy. In that case, it was suggested that the signals could have been coming from the neighbourhood of Manchester in spite of Professor Masevich's unequivocal statement. Alla Masevich was declared to have been joking: the good lady herself departed quickly for Russia, leaving behind yet another unsolved mystery of the skies.

WAS THIS THE CHARLTON SAUCER?

A contemporary sighting in Lancashire

ON July 22, 1963, three youths saw a mysterious object hovering low over a tip on waste land opposite Redgate Drive, Parr, Lancashire. The boys, 12-year-old William Holland, of 42 Redgate Drive, and two friends, Paul Lightfoot and Keith Kerfoot, were playing on the tip at about 8.30 p.m. when they noticed a shining object in the sky at a great height.

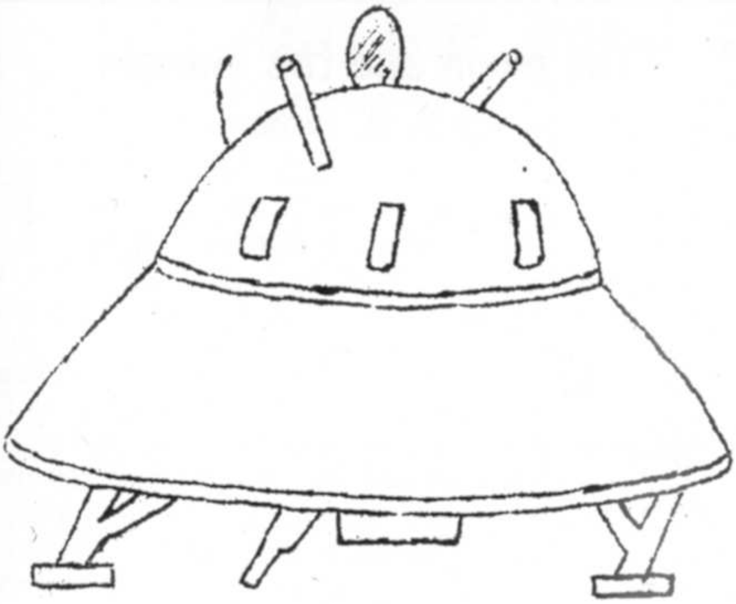
Michael Holland describes his experience in these words: "We saw this thing very high up at first, then it came down very fast. It stopped in the air about 70 feet high. It had a red flashing light on top of it and it flashed like those on top of police cars. It was spinning when it first came down, but then it stopped and the flashing light went out. We were all watching it when something slid back underneath it and what looked like a periscope came out. It swivelled round and pointed at us. Then it went back in and the machine went up very fast into a cloud. We saw it again about five seconds later, then it vanished."

The boy told a reporter that the machine was silver and shining brightly. The cloud into which it disappeared was unusual in colour, but he could not exactly describe the tint. He maintained, however, that the cloud moved against the wind and that the flying machine stayed in it until both were some distance away — then the machine left the cloud and disappeared.

Sceptical at first

William and his companions stated that they had never seen photographs or drawings of what are alleged to be flying saucers, but the sketch which the REVIEW reproduces bears a resemblance to those drawn by many others who have seen these machines.

The boy's parents, Mr. William and Mrs. Margaret Holland, told a reporter that they were sceptical of the boy's story at first, but their son was obviously frightened. "I was inclined to laugh at him when he first came in, but later there was something on T.V. about flying saucers and I changed my view about his story," said his father. "He and his friends are obviously in earnest. He was told that the joke would be on him if he was pulling our legs, but he insisted



he was not and that he, Paul and Keith saw this thing." Mrs. Margaret Holland said her son was obviously frightened when he ran in on Monday (July 22, 1963). "The colour had gone from his face," she added.

This sighting, now some months old, has just come to the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW'S notice. Its possible connection with the Wiltshire Crater mystery of July, 1963, should not be overlooked. The object drawn by William Holland appears to have a central projection at its base which could have caused a hole in the ground had it actually rested on *terra firma*. The three "legs" might well have made the mysterious radial marks in Mr. Roy Blanchard's field. (See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, September-October, 1963, issue.)

Parr, not to be confused with a similarly named place in Cornwall, is a parish near St. Helens, Lancashire. This sighting does not appear to have attracted any notice in the national Press, but was reported in the *St. Helens Reporter* on July 27, 1963.

It is worth noting that ten years ago when any witness produced either photograph or sketch of an object that he alleged he had seen in the sky, the sceptic was ready to point out that he had copied the illustration from *Flying Saucers Have Landed* or from some other well publicised report. This objection is not nowadays so frequently heard because, particularly where youthful witnesses are concerned, the happenings of the early 1950s have been "killed" by silence in the Press, general ridicule and governmental suppression of the facts about flying saucers. It is now quite likely that youths in the St. Helens area had never, in fact, seen any drawings of saucers. In 1953-1954, a youth of 12 could hardly have avoided seeing a reproduction of Adamski's photograph. (Credit to Mr. H. Bunting of the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena and the Merseyside UFO Research Group, Secretary, Mr. A. Rawlinson.)

SAUCER PHOTOGRAPHS

by Peter F. Sharp

IN recent issues of the REVIEW I was interested to see the substantiating evidence for the validity of the Adamski photographs reviewed.[1 & 2] The Potter sighting and the Darbishire photographs appear to be corroborating evidence for Adamski but it is necessary to differentiate between the Adamski contact story and the Adamski photographic evidence. Study of the Adamski case shows that it is possible to accept the validity of the photographs whilst not accepting the Venusian desert contact. The later contact claims may be considered separately.

I would like to draw the attention of the readers of the REVIEW to certain points in connection with the Potter and Darbishire sightings. First I would invite readers to compare the sketch drawn by Potter (ref. 2) with five photographs of an object seen over Passaic, New Jersey, on July 29, 1952; these are reproduced on pp. 64-65 of *Flying Saucers* by Max B. Miller (Trend Books, 1957). I think that readers will see that the comparison shows Potter's object more closely resembles the Passaic disc than it does Adamski's saucer.

In their behaviour, as well as in their appearance, these two objects closely resemble each other. In the *Daily Mail* of February 11, 1954, J. Stubbs Walker, describing Potter's object, says: "His flying saucer was not flying the same way up as those of Mr. Adamski and no amount of arguing will make him change his mind." The Passaic object also flew "upside-down" and one photograph shows it in this position.

The Darbishire sighting included the taking of two photographs, only one of which has had much publicity. This is the one shown in ref. 1 and

tallies with Adamski's saucer on orthographic projection. The second photograph does not agree with the first because the photograph shows a domed object somewhat distorted.[3] It is to be hoped that a copy of this photograph will be obtained and reproduced in these pages so that analysis may tell whether or not the distortion is due to the motion of the object or is an indication that the photographs have somehow been faked.

Thus it appears that the independent evidence for the validity of the Adamski photographs warrants much more examination before it becomes water tight.

Perhaps I might take this opportunity to point out an inconsistency in the Adamski story of the receipt of the Venusian message on the photographic plate.[4] If we accept that UFOs are powered by a gravitational field then we must realise that it would be impossible to drop the plate from the saucer in flight. An object placed outside the UFO would be carried along with it by its gravitational field as was the debris borne along with the objects in the Vauriat sighting.[5]

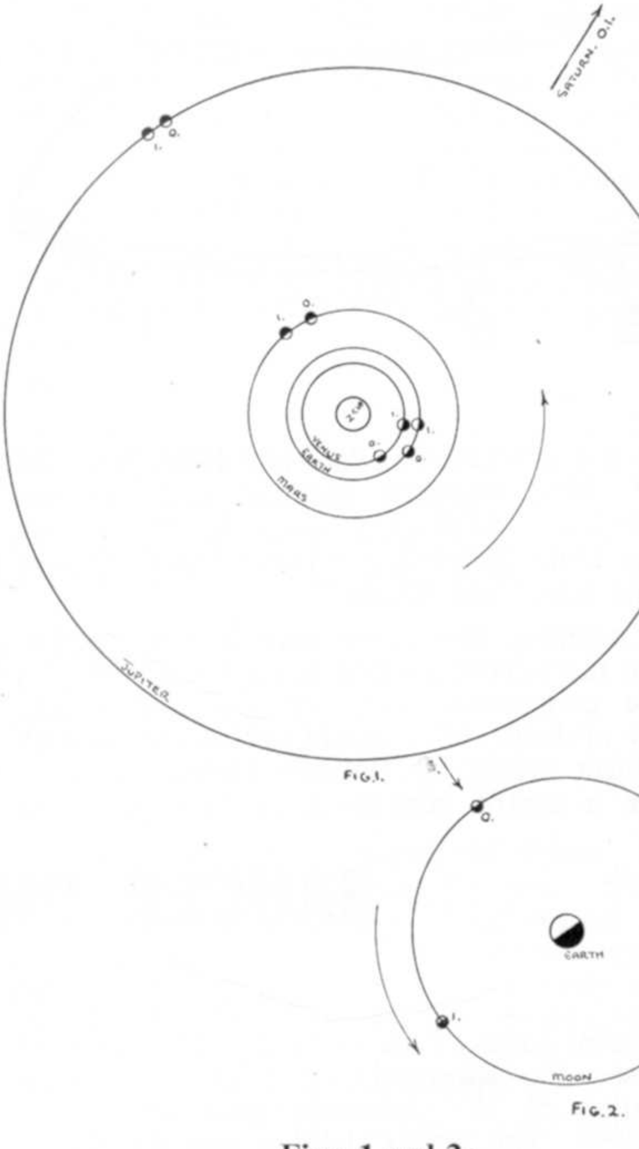
References—

1. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW V.9 No. 5 Orthographic Projection of Darbishire and Adamski photos.
2. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW V.10, No. 1 Saucer Photographs and Sketches.
3. FLYING SAUCER NEWS, Summer 1955, Coniston Puzzle.
4. FLYING SAUCERS Have Landed p.217 et seq.
5. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW V.9 No. 4 The Vauriat Sighting—The Weirdest Craft of All.

(EDITOR'S NOTE. — We hope we have made it clear that, in expressing our belief that the Adamski photographs may be genuine, we do not necessarily endorse him or any of his claims. Our interest in this matter centres on the photographs, and this is why we have returned to the subject. If it can be proved that Adamski took the pictures himself then those who support him are a step forward. If someone else took the pictures which subsequently fell into Adamski's hands, a number of interesting possibilities arise. For instance, could these pictures have been taken by someone at the Mount Palomar Observatory? The point we would like to make is perhaps the reverse of the obvious. Those who distrust Adamski are inclined to throw the photographs away with the claims. Our suggestion to these people is that they should try to separate the two questions by considering the photographs on their own. Adamski can then be dismissed from the argument. Are the photographs genuine? Do they resemble other saucers taken by people, who seem to be trustworthy and who do not claim contact? The answers to these questions are in the affirmative and a new line of enquiry is opened up.)

The Moon and the Planets

by C. M. Pither



Figs. 1 and 2:

0. The Moon and Planets for mid-May.

1. The Moon and Planets for mid-June.

N.B.

On May 13 Greatest Brilliancy of Venus occurs; i.e. Venus will be at its brightest in the sky during its appearance as an evening star.

Venus reaches Inferior Conjunction on June 19; for explanation see November-December, 1962, issue.

On the Road to Vereeniging

We are indebted to Mr. Philipp J. Human for the following translated extract from the Afrikaans "Die Brandwag" of January 10, 1964.

THIS whole affair came to light recently when scores of people in the Vereeniging district phoned the police and newspapers to report a strange and mysterious light that they saw that night. Investigations were started. Sabotage was suspected at first, but it was speedily established that it had not been an explosion. Then the newspapers decided that "it was just a meteorite that had plunged into the mountain between Vereeniging and Heidelberg."

But then two friends of *Die Brandwag* from Vereeniging approached us and told of an experience they had had that same night. "Nobody would believe us," they said, "but it is the gospel truth!"

Sworn statements

These two men, Mr. W. T. Muller and Mr. Leslie Immelman, both made sworn statements before a Commissioner of Oaths wherein they told of the strange escapades of an object which could have been nothing else but a flying saucer.

This strange object was seen on the Potchefstroom road at the same time as the "meteor" was sighted over Keyterskloof near Meyerton.

"Now let me explain emphatically," said Mr. Leslie Immelman of Three Rivers, Vereeniging, "that I don't believe in ghosts, fairies and any such nonsense. But the object I had seen impressed me enormously. In the past I used to laugh at the very idea of flying saucers, but now the laugh is on me. I saw it myself!"

On Saturday morning, December 14, 1963, Mr. Immelman and Mr. Muller were travelling by car from Potchefstroom to Vereeniging. At about 1 a.m. that night they were about twelve miles from Parys when this strange drama was enacted before their very eyes.

In his sworn statement Mr. Immelman said: "I saw something in the road that resembled a buck. Mr. Muller was driving my car, and we decided to turn back and investigate. It appeared to be an exceptionally large dog, so we turned around again and proceeded on our journey to Vereeniging.

"Whilst Mr. Muller was turning the car round for the second time, I noticed that the whole area seemed to be lit up all of a sudden. It was so bright that I could see all the boulders and potholes along the road. Just as the car was back on the tar road it seemed that night had suddenly turned into day.

"Suddenly a strange bright object appeared ahead of us and made straight for our car at a terrific speed. I was afraid that the object would hit our car, so I jumped out absolutely petrified. Mr. Muller did likewise. Standing next to the car in the tarred road, we were astounded to see the object dive right over our car and ascend up into the sky."

A round object

Mr. Immelman said that the object travelled at incredible speed, suddenly changed its course and made another pass at the motor car. Fifty feet above the car the object suddenly stopped and hovered for at least two minutes, thereby giving them the opportunity of taking in all its details. It was a round object, some 50 feet in diameter. "The object glowed with an orange light and on the one side we noticed a bright blue light which lit up the whole area as clear as daylight," said Mr. Immelman. From this blue light protruded a long fiery tail which emitted bright electrical sparks.

"Whilst it was hovering I also became aware of a gentle hum. There was no heat. I continued to watch this strange thing in great amazement. I nudged my friend said, 'Do you see what I see?' He replied, 'Yes, but I don't believe it!'

"All of a sudden it shot away again heading towards Parys, then changed its course towards Potchefstroom, but soon it returned again and dived low over the motor car. Five or six times the object returned, swooping low over us only to disappear into the distance. At one stage the object stopped at the side of the car and hovered over the road.

"You know," continued Mr. Immelman, "I fully intended to keep this fantastic experience to myself. I was afraid of ridicule and disbelief. But when a report appeared in *Dagbreek* the following day about a meteor near Meyerton, I decided to speak up. What I had seen, I had seen . . ."

If this was not a genuine flying saucer these men had seen, what was it?

That same night, Mr. Gericke, who is a foreman on a farm near Keyterskloof, also saw something. He was busy supervising the milking, and

was standing in the stable door. "Suddenly everything was lit up brighter than moonlight. I looked up and saw a fiery object travelling low over the horizon. Then it seemed to disintegrate in all directions. There were flames everywhere, then all was dark again. This was followed by a tremendous bang . . . " he said.

A loud report

But this was not all! On Friday, December 20, 1963, a mysterious bright light and two loud explosions woke several people from their sleep at Krugersdorp. The time was about 3 a.m. Mrs. A. Stoop of Main Reef Road, Krugersdorp, reported to the *Vaderland* that she had heard a loud report that morning coming from an easterly direction. She jumped out of bed and looked through the window. "There was a bright light with a blue tinge. It seemed as if someone was swinging a very strong light to and fro. It lasted for about a minute. The whole neighbourhood was brightly lit up," she said.

What did these people see? As a result of a flying saucer investigation, *Die Brandwag* was astonished to discover that a surprising number of people have suddenly become interested in flying saucers and believe in their reality. Scores of people have actually seen them.

OBITUARY

Dr. R. J. Irving-Bell

We announce with regret the death of Dr. R. J. Irving-Bell, M.R.C.S. He was Bristol's first assistant Medical Officer of Health and lived in Clifton. He was well known throughout Somerset as a pioneer in a number of fields. His enquiring mind led to an interest in flying saucers and he became President of the Flying Saucer Bureau and an indefatigable investigator into the mystery. He was aged 63.

PERSONAL COLUMN

VORTEXCRAFT IDEA, submitted to the Patent Office and Inventors' Club, may need support. 41 Roma Road, E.17.

BOOK REVIEW

THE WORLD OF DR. MENZEL

by Waveney Girvan

DR. MENZEL'S second book[1] in demolition of the flying saucers would have been easier to read and to review had it been put together in a more logical order. As it is, the heart of the matter is not to be found until page 216, more than half way through the volume. By that time the uncritical reader will have swallowed neat many of the conclusions that Dr. Menzel and his co-author have reached concerning the "major myth of the space age." It will be seen that, far from investigating UFOs as such, the authors have prejudged the issue on the very title page which precedes the text.

On page 216 we are, at last, allowed the reasoning, such as it is, that leads to nearly all the mundane explanations offered to avoid the possibility that UFOs are inter-planetary or even real in the sense that a machine is real and under intelligent control. Here is what the authors have written: "Astronomers have found no evidence suggesting that intelligent life exists on any of earth's sister planets. Most scientists, however, would agree that life of some kind does exist in other parts of our galaxy. Even if this probability were certainty and space travel were possible over the vast distances we measure in light years, the chance that earthman and alien will ever establish physical contact remains infinitesimally small."

The wording of this premise should have been more exact, for the whole book is based upon it. The authors argue that as the saucers cannot come from anywhere, therefore they cannot exist. It follows then that there must always be some "rational" explanation for them. Supported by such a bias, it is no wonder that the authors never lack for rationalisations. But this sort of reasoning just will not do. The surface conditions on Mars have nothing whatever to do with the existence or non-existence of saucers in the earth's atmosphere. It is as though Dr. Menzel had said: "I see a burglar in my room. All doors are locked, so he cannot exist. Therefore it must have been a luminous owl that came down the chimney." This may comfort the Menzel family but it is no way to protect the silver. (No, I am not exaggerating. I have borrowed my luminous owl from one of the professor's less likely "explanations." By the way, his ornithology is weak. He refers to two types

of owl. They are, in fact, the same bird under different names.)

The sophisticated UFO investigator (the epithet is Dr. Menzel's) proceeds in a more logical manner. He ponders the question of the reality of the UFOs and only when he has made his mind up does he wonder where they could have come from. If difficulty exists the problem is as much Dr. Menzel's as anybody's. He should re-examine his premise. Perhaps Mars, for instance, is not so inhospitable as he assumed.

But is his premise really correct? If by "astronomers" he means "all astronomers at all times" his statement is manifestly wrong. If he means "all modern astronomers" he is far from correct. Not all modern astronomers would agree with him. If he means "all modern astronomers with whom I agree" (which is what I think he does mean) then he should have declared his bias in unmistakable terms. Several UFO investigators have suggested that Dr. Menzel is in some way an agent of the United States Air Force. This is quite unfair and his naivety is such that he really believes himself to be a man of logic. As far as the U.S. Air Force is concerned he is both volunteer and victim. His errors do not end with a false premise: he soldiers on to the bitter end.

The next step he takes can be seen from remarks he makes on page 38: "The final solutions of these UFO mysteries often depend on one key fact. Without it, the puzzle may never be solved. With it all the pieces fall into place." The "place," it should be emphasised, is the bias with which Dr. Menzel started his enquiry. The authors' gullibility ensures that they do not notice that the "key fact" is invariably supplied by a government department. Dr. Menzel never seems to consider an investigation into these "key facts." A blind acceptance of everything the government says betrays not only bias but also inadequate research. He knows that government agencies are suspect on this matter of UFOs. Indeed, he makes fun of UFO researchers for their suspicions. He has never truly turned the searchlight on the government. As I shall later reveal, when a professional investigator does this, many of the "key facts" evaporate — with startling results. If Dr. Menzel is ready to accept everything he is told, I wonder why he bothered to write his second book at all.

Where are these other races?

Dr. Menzel has already taken two false steps. Let us follow him on his misguided path. In one chapter he refers to the Mantell sighting, a "classic,"[2] as he terms it. It will be recalled that the first official explanation was that Mantell had been chasing the planet Venus. That proved too much for even the doctor to swallow, though he clings to it as a possible explanation for one of the ground sightings. One waits, as Dr. Menzel has advised, and the "key fact" inevitably turns up. Some time later it is discovered that Clinton County Air Force Base had released a sky-hook balloon, so Venus and a "mock sun," which had either supplanted or complemented it, were abandoned. Dr. Menzel must now be quoted: "Unfortunately, records for the day of Captain Mantell's death were not available, and the men who had worked on the balloon project could no longer remember whether they had, nevertheless, launched a Skyhook on that particular day." Unfortunately! Never mind, here is a "key fact" and the investigator into the mystery reaches his conclusion: " . . . the solution cannot be called absolutely certain. But the chances of its being correct are overwhelmingly high — infinitely higher than the probability that Mantell died while chasing a spaceship from another planet." Dr. Menzel is adept at challenging other people's statistics. It would be interesting to know what method he adopted to reach this verdict. Could it have been based on the opinion that flying saucers cannot exist? In that case we have the explanation of the use of the word "infinitely." Otherwise it has no meaning at all.

Next comes the Killian sighting of February 4, 1959. Dr. Menzel makes great play, as he is entitled to, with the fact that Killian made two apparently contradictory remarks about his knowledge of night tank re-fuelling operations. However, he ignores completely the contradictions of the Air Technical Intelligence Command (ATIC) itself. The first "explanation" was Orion and its Belt. As this was ridiculous, one merely had to wait and sure enough another "key fact" turned up: it was not Orion but a jet-tanker refuelling operation. ATIC can be forgiven for its initial error — it was due to the pressure of public opinion for a pronouncement on the mystery. Captain Killian, however, is not to be forgiven though he, too, was under pressure, a pressure so great that, in the end, he was silenced. Dr. Menzel completely ignores this and sees absolutely nothing suspicious in the official *volte-face*. One can imagine the scorn which would greet the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW if its explanations were continually exploding and it invariably fell back on another. It is incredible that a professor living in the twentieth century should

be unable to recognise the difference between truth and government propaganda.

Why should flying saucer investigators be suspicious of their government? Dr. Menzel, who believes implicitly in his government as others swear by Holy Writ, has probably never investigated any of the "key facts." Others must speak for America, but an English investigator can quote numbers of cases where a "key fact" was either a deliberate lie or an explanation so carelessly offered that it was completely valueless as a piece of evidence. Here are a few:

Date	Location	Official Explanation	Comment
June 19, 1961	Exeter Airport.[3]	Weather balloon from Bristol University.	No such balloon released by Bristol University for over a year.
May, 1962	Brecon, Wales.[4]	Parachute descending from balloon.	Explanation at variance with two Aer Lingus pilots' evidence. E.g. speed of UFO, 500 m.p.h. etc.
July, 1963	Charlton, Wilts.[5]	Meteorite.	No meteorite. Army forced to recant.

These are three examples only. The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW'S columns over the last ten years will provide many others. The sophisticated UFO investigator does not imagine that his government is something less than frank: he can prove it. The one thing that never is a "key fact" is his government's explanation and it is exactly the same in America.

It is not only Dr. Menzel's premise that is wrong. Many errors of fact and reasoning are to be found throughout the book. Space does not allow me to expose them all. He refers twice to Curacao as being in the British West Indies whereas it is an island in the Netherland Antilles. This and the confusion over owls may be minor, but more serious is the attempted UFO rationalisation in terms of fireballs. He admits that very little is known about fireballs so his explanation is, in fact, an attempt to explain one mystery in terms of another. He chides the UFO investigator for postulating that flying saucers may obey laws as yet unknown. This, he says, is not permissible. In his chapter on meteorites he mentions the fate of those who, by assuming that all laws were known a hundred and fifty years ago, declared that stones could not fall from the sky! Not for a moment does he appear to suspect that he is a twentieth century counterpart of those discredited savants. The similarity in reasoning, now that it is pointed out, must surely be too close for his comfort.

Elsewhere Dr. Menzel makes fun of those UFO investigators who have tried to show that there is a correlation between the opposition of Mars and an increase in sightings. With heavy-handed humour he points out that the Martian travellers should have left on their journeys some time before the moment of closest proximity to earth if they wanted to shorten their journey. But where does he get his statistics from? He does not say. The only figures available to us are those of Jacques Vallée[6]. Correct or not, what they show is that peak sightings are recorded *two months prior* to the opposition of Mars. So Dr. Menzel's little joke falls as flat as his theory that it is the planet itself which, by its close proximity to the earth, gives rise to the increase in UFO reports.

Two final quotations will typify the illogicality that runs like a thread throughout *The World of Flying Saucers*:

(Page 275) "When Air Force investigators have determined that a UFO report does not represent anything of interest to Intelligence, their duty ends. They have no obligation to pursue the problem further or to determine exactly what did cause the report. Their only interest is security. The Air Force is not an institute of pure research and its function is not primarily scientific, but military."

(Page 289) "Extra-terrestrial visitors have not yet arrived, and may never arrive. If and when they do, our Air Force wants to be the first to know."

I suggest that when it has made its mind up as to what it does want, it sends for a sophisticated investigator. *The World of Flying Saucers* will not help anybody very much.

(1) *The World of Flying Saucers,* by Dr. Donald H. Menzel and Mrs. Lyle G. Boyd. Doubleday, New York, U.S.A. ($4.50).

(2) Dr. Menzel's definition of a classic sighting reads: "A classic is a particularly dramatic UFO incident whose specific cause has yet to be found or, if found, cannot be absolutely proved from the evidence available. Lacking a completely airtight explanation, official investigators classify the case

as Unknown. Saucer fans classify it as proof that flying saucers exist." It is a pity that the authors concentrate on America. They would have found many much more remarkable incidents in Great Britain, Brazil, Argentina, Papua and Australia. These are largely ignored. None of Dr. Menzel's explanations, for instance, fit the Father Gill sighting in Papua in 1959.

3. See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, September-October, 1961 (World Round Up).

4. IBID, July-August, 1962.

5. IBID, September-October, 1963.

6. IBID, September-October, 1962, *"Mars and the Flying Saucers,"* article by Jacques Vallée.

THE COSFORD UFO

The mystery deepens

IN the February-March issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW there was a full account of the landing at Cosford R.A.F. camp. The attempts by the Air Ministry to close the incident proved unsuccessful and the REVIEW was able to quote statements made by a young Chaplain attached to the station to Mr. Wilfred Daniels, who happened to meet him by accident. The padre did not want his name disclosed by Mr. Daniels, who honoured this request.

In view of this further information, the REVIEW decided to reopen the matter and telephoned Cosford. Before long it was able to obtain the name of the Church of England Chaplain which was Flight-Lieutenant Henry, but was unable to speak to him personally. However, in the course of conversation, a Flight-Lieutenant Stevens gave the following explanations of what had occurred at Cosford last December :

1. Nothing at all.
2. Two apprentices were drunk.
3. The apprentices were hallucinated.
4. The apprentices were misled by smoke and fire from a British Railways steam train into believing they had seen a UFO.
5. The apprentices indulged in a hoax.

Thus, if we add Flight-Lieutenant Henry's explanation that the youths saw a genuine flying saucer, we have six different explanations. They cannot all be correct : they cannot all have been put forward as sincere replies to a serious inquiry.

In the course of his telephone conversation, Flight-Lieutenant Stevens, in trying to deny the padre's explanation, admitted that an investigation had been carried out, and made the curious observation that no scorch marks had been found and that the object, had it landed, must surely have left some trace as the UFOs "must possess some motive power." (It should be borne in mind that the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW did not claim an actual landing, but mentioned that as the UFO had disappeared behind a hangar it might have been hovering near the ground instead of touching down. Flight-Lieutenant Stevens admitted that the investigation had taken place behind a hangar.

As the REVIEW has advised before, investigations should not be abandoned immediately an official "explanation" has been handed out. That is the time to start probing. Nine times out of ten, officialdom's explanation can easily be exploded and there is nothing more likely to convince the public that flying saucers exist than the exposure that the Air Ministry is desperately trying to hide the facts. If flying saucers do not exist there can be no need to invent fictitious stories every time one of them appears.

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has received an assurance that the subject of UFOs is not under any official censorship. If that is so, it is high time that the Air Ministry was reminded of its duty either to tell the public the truth or, at least, not to confuse the public by laying false trails. If the assurance given recently is correct, then investigators are being prevented from reaching the truth by a petty tyranny which should be first exposed and then terminated.

Investigators should not readily give their word of honour not to quote names. The request for such secrecy usually comes at the end of a statement. Why should anybody give such an assurance ? The reply should be that the subject is in no way barred from public discussion. Flight-Lieutenant Henry's request that his name should be kept secret is further evidence that some Jack-in-Office is exceeding his powers and is using intimidation as a weapon. It is high time that all those who have either seen a UFO or are in a position to know the truth took steps to end this totally unauthorised censorship.

A number of enquiries made at Cosford by the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and by others on its behalf led to the whole matter being referred to the Air Ministry in London. When asked which of the several "explanations" of the affair was to be regarded as official, the spokesman, a Mr. B. E. Robson of Whitehall, London, S.W.1, appeared to waver between "nothing at all" and something that really did not amount to a hoax. Youthful high spirits was another explanation offered to one of our readers. This, of course, is an evasion because no explanation was offered as to what form the not-quite-a-hoax took or how the youthful high spirits manifested themselves. In the same letter, Mr. Robson appeared to repudiate Flight-Lieutenant Henry's statements to Mr. Wilfrid Daniels, but it is significant that attempts to obtain this repudiation direct from either the Padre or Ian Jones, one of the boy entrants, have so far failed.

On March 6 what was described as an informal visit was made to Cosford by a deputation which included the Secretary of State for Air, Mr. Hugh Fraser, Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Air Vice Marshal Sir Donald Evans, Air Officer Commanding 24 Group, Air Vice Marshal J. K. Rotherham, and Station Commander, Group Captain C. F. Thomas. Mr. William Yates, M.P. (Wrekin), also met Mr. Fraser.

The Air Ministry denied that this "informal" assemblage had any connection with the incident, or lack of incident, at Cosford last December. In view of the long series of misrepresentations by the Air Ministry on the subject of UFOs, it was pointed out to Mr. Robson that the public could not be blamed if the explanations and denials issued were received with a great deal of reserve. It certainly seems to be an extraordinary coincidence that so many of the "top brass" should descend on what is only a training station at the very moment that the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and others were applying pressure to arrive at the truth.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID

"I have referred your interesting material to the staff of the Preparedness Investigating Sub-Committee which, at my direction, as you know, is keeping a close watch over new developments in this field with standing directions to report to me any recent significant sightings of unidentified flying objects . . ." From a letter from Lyndon B. Johnson, now President of the United States, dated July 6th, 1960, to Major Donald E. Keyhoe.

"This is an area of considerable controversy in the area of what was seen by responsible persons who have witnessed sightings of these aerial phenomena. Reasonable and objective persons have reached different conclusions as to the origin, nature and significance of these phenomena. Let me assure you that this matter is receiving careful attention." October, 1960.

MAILBAG *(continued from page 23)*

area a purely random choice? In other words, were the Americans attempting to obtain a close-up of the bridge so as to be able to decide whether it was natural or artificial?—Ronald W. J. Anstee, 9229 Verville, Montreal, 11, Canada.

Fátima

Sir,—With reference to Mr. G. B. Proctor's letter in the July-August, 1963, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, I think he is wrong when he says that Fatima, Portugal, is on the continued Bayonne-Vichy line. I find that BAVIC passes some 50-60 miles to the south-west of Fatima. I have come to this result both by drawing BAVIC across a map of Iberia and also by calculating BAVIC's path from a graph—the graph was drawn using P. K. Haythornthwaite's table of values of BAVIC, published in the November-December issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

The Fatima referred to is about twelve miles south-west of Leiria and is in Santarem.—Peter J. Kelly, 31, Sycamore Road, Hollybank, Hythe, Hampshire.

Lenticular Clouds

Sir,—As the contributor who submitted to the REVIEW the article and photograph printed in the May-June 1963 issue, I have followed with interest the exchange of views between Messrs. Moulster and Bowen. On first being shown the original colour-slide I too thought that the object in question could have been a cloud. When, however, I asked the photographer if at the time he had thought that this was so, he replied bluntly, "No. I wouldn't have wasted a good colour film photographing a *cloud*! It was a solid object." This opinion was shared by the other two witnesses.

There may of course be truth in the view of both Mr. Moulster and Mr. Bowen in that it is possible that a large cigar-shaped craft was being deliberately concealed in its own cloud camouflage. I am sure that close and prolonged study of a cloudy sky could on occasion prove very rewarding to ufologists. Unfortunately few of us have the time to indulge in such a pastime.

Incidentally it is perhaps rather refreshing to think, that somewhere in Space a photograph of the "Flying Scotsman" is being studied with blank incredulity.—David Rudman, 54, Sylvan Way, Sea Mills, Bristol, 9.

BOOKS OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS OF FLYING SAUCERS

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE STRAIGHT LINE MYSTERY

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"Meteors"

Sir, — In the November-December, 1963, issue of the REVIEW, D. Ward gives several examples of "meteors" which could have been UFOs. As I am quite interested in uncovering just such examples as he sets forth, I should like to suggest that more articles of this type be included in forthcoming issues of the REVIEW.

As an example of "meteors" which are almost certainly UFOs, I give the following account from *The Illustrated London News,*

"Meteor—A correspondent at Lee-park, Blackheath, states that about half-past ten, p.m., on Sunday evening, the rain having ceased for a short time, a peculiar phenomenon was observed. It had first the form of a comet, and continued so for about two minutes, when the tail gradually diminished, forming into a bright circular light of a blueish colour; and suddenly another ball of the same hue appeared, just below where the tail was disappearing. This beautiful sight lasted for about a minute more, when the clouds again gathered and obscured it. Its brightness, however, was such that it was clearly distinguished behind the clouds, setting rapidly in a north-west direction. Its position, when first observed, was nearly due north, slightly westward, and about four degrees above the horizon."

I think it may be safely said that the above-described object was no meteor, whatever else it may have been.—Lucius Farish, Assistant Director, Interplanetary News Service, Route One, Plumerville, Arkansas.

May 6, 1854:

In our next issue

The Deadly Bermuda Triangle

THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING PLANES

The Menzel-Michel controversy reviewed

by JACQUES VALLEE

AND ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND COMMENTS

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